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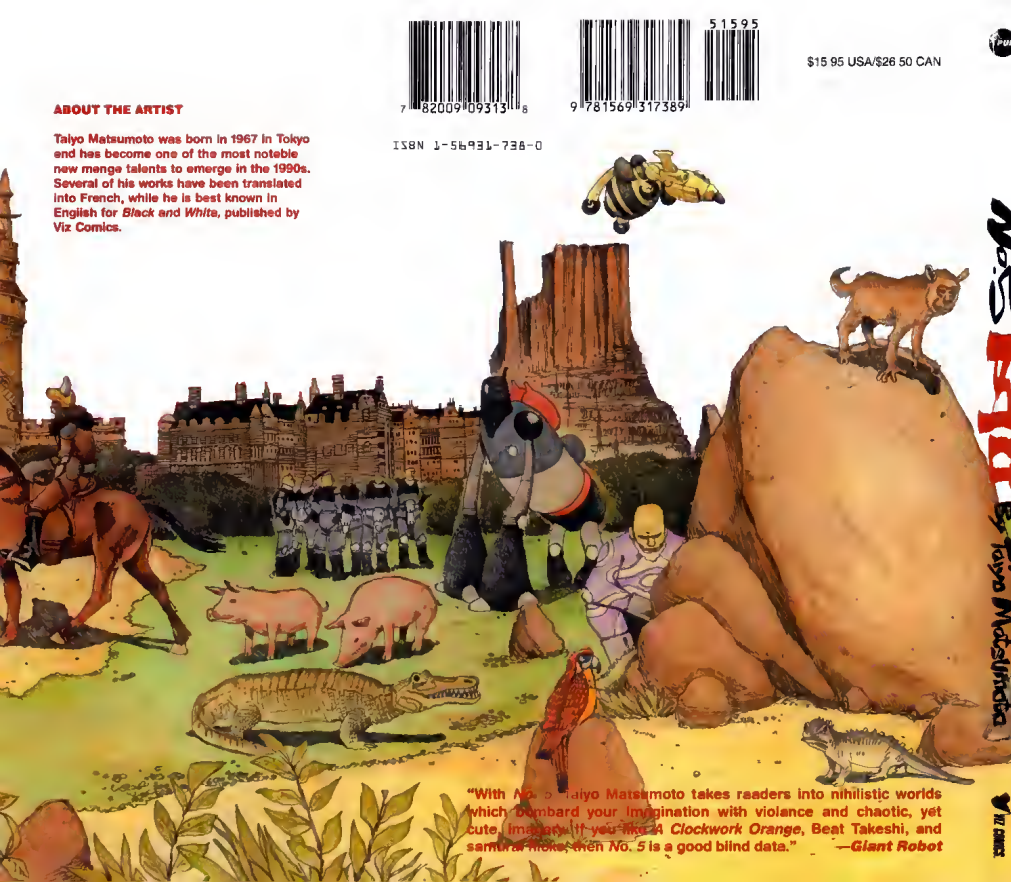
ABOUT THE ARTIST

Taiyo Matsumoto was born in 1967 in Tokyo and has become one of the most notable new manga talents to emerge in the 1990s. Several of his works have been translated into French, while he is best known in English for *Black and White*, published by Viz Comics.



"With *No. 5* Taiyo Matsumoto takes readers into nihilistic worlds which bombard your imagination with violance and chaotic, yet cute, imagery. If you like *A Clockwork Orange*, Beat Takeshi, and samurai flicks, then *No. 5* is a good blind data." —*Giant Robot*

No.5

By Taiyo Matsumoto

VIZ COMICS

No.5

By Taiyo Matsumoto

FROM THE CREATOR OF *BLACK & WHITE*

FIVE GONE ROGUE

A science-fiction thriller set in a powerfully imagined multicultural future landscape that resembles the current Middle East, *No. 5* is the latest work from the critically acclaimed creator of *Black and White*, Taiyo Matsumoto.

In a world that has become 70% harsh desert, the Rainbow Council of the International Peace Keeping Forces, a team of super-powered global security guardians, have a growing crisis on their hands. No. 5, one of their own and known within the council as their top marksman, has left his post and gone rogue. It's up to the other guardians to track him down—but No. 5, with his mysterious companion Mouse, won't go down without a fight.

王仁慘死

豈亡蜂苦

No.5

By Taiyo Matsumoto

VIZ COMICS.

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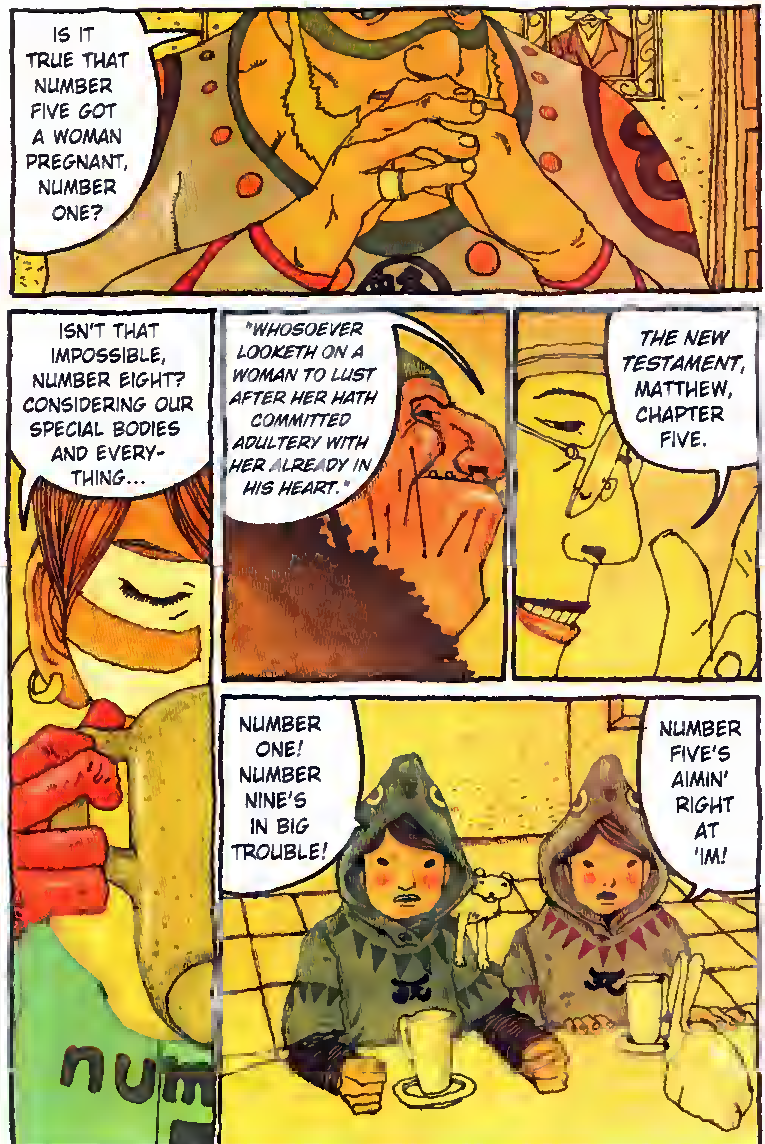
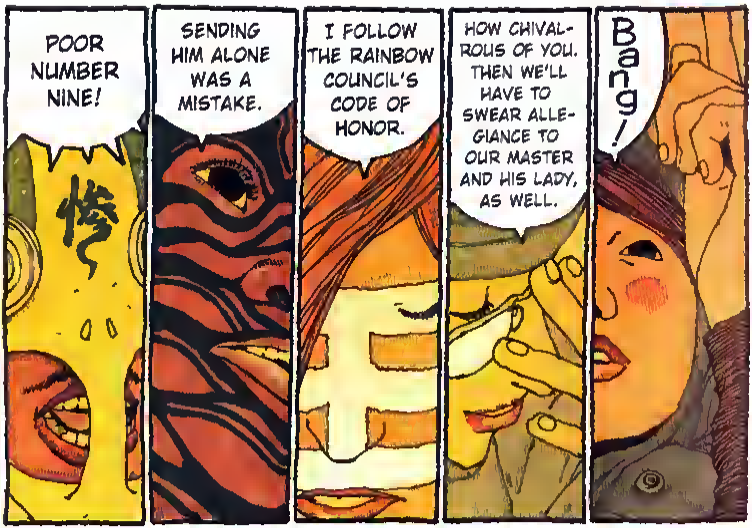
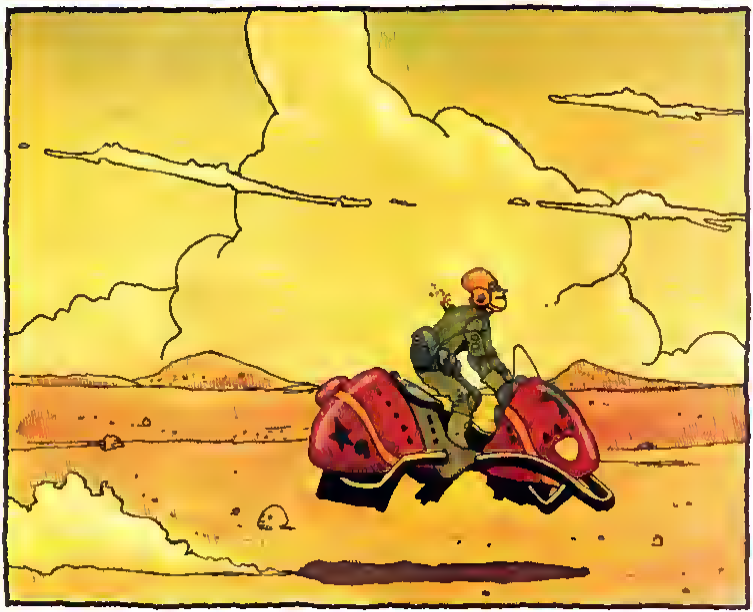
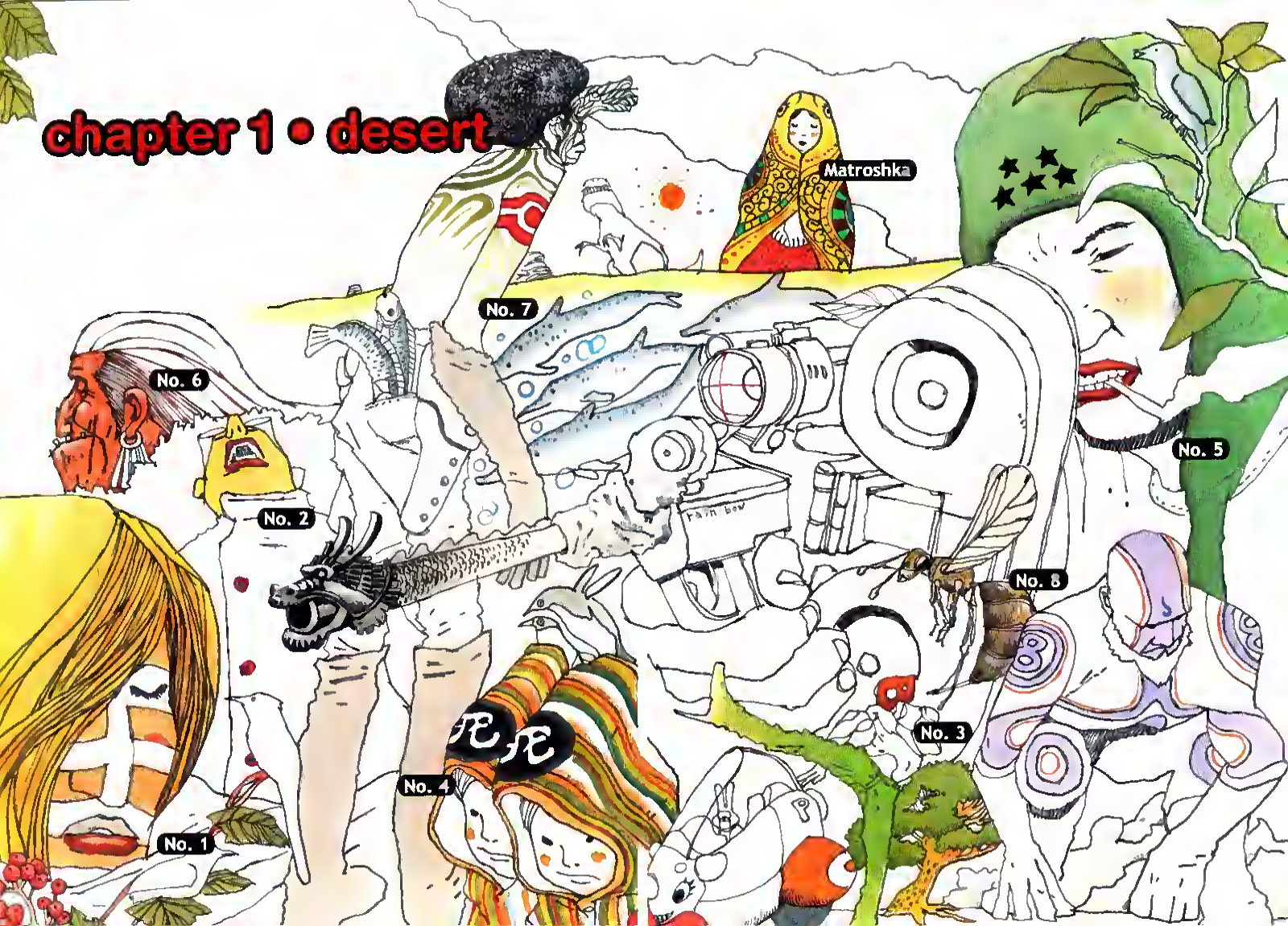
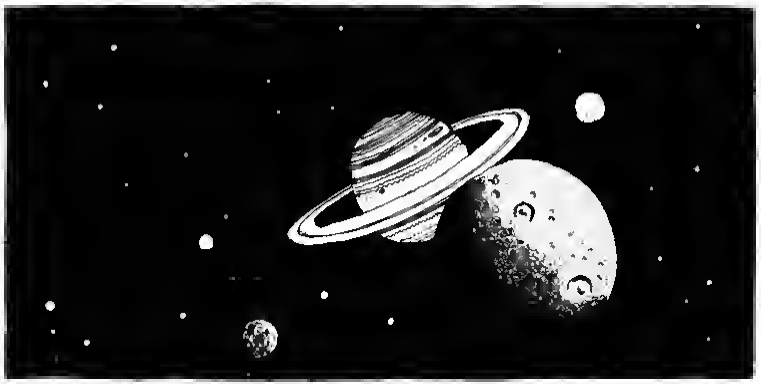
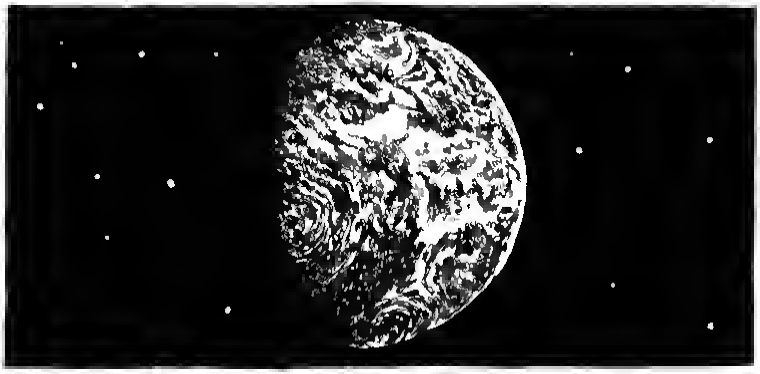

IS IT TRUE THAT NUMBER FIVE GOT A WOMAN PREGNANT, NUMBER ONE?
ISN'T THAT IMPOSSIBLE, NUMBER EIGHT? CONSIDERING OUR SPECIAL BODIES AND EVERY-THING...
"WHOSOEVER LOOKETH ON A WOMAN TO LUST AFTER HER HATH COMMITTED ADULTERY WITH HER ALREADY IN HIS HEART."
THE NEW TESTAMENT, MATTHEW, CHAPTER FIVE.
NUMBER ONE! NUMBER NINE'S IN BIG TROUBLE!
NUMBER FIVE'S AIMIN' RIGHT AT 'IM!

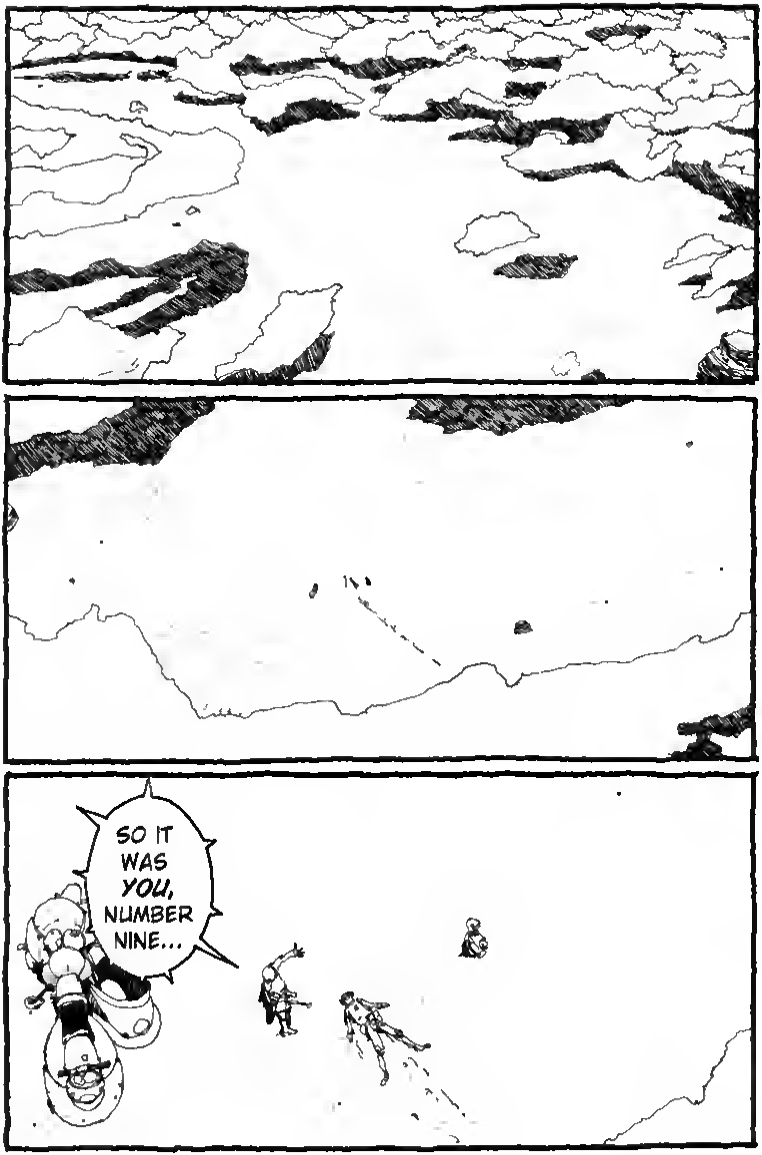

POOR NUMBER NINE!
SENDING HIM ALONE WAS A MISTAKE.
I FOLLOW THE RAINBOW COUNCIL'S CODE OF HONOR.
HOW CHIVALROUS OF YOU. THEN WE'LL HAVE TO SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO OUR MASTER AND HIS LADY, AS WELL.
Bang!

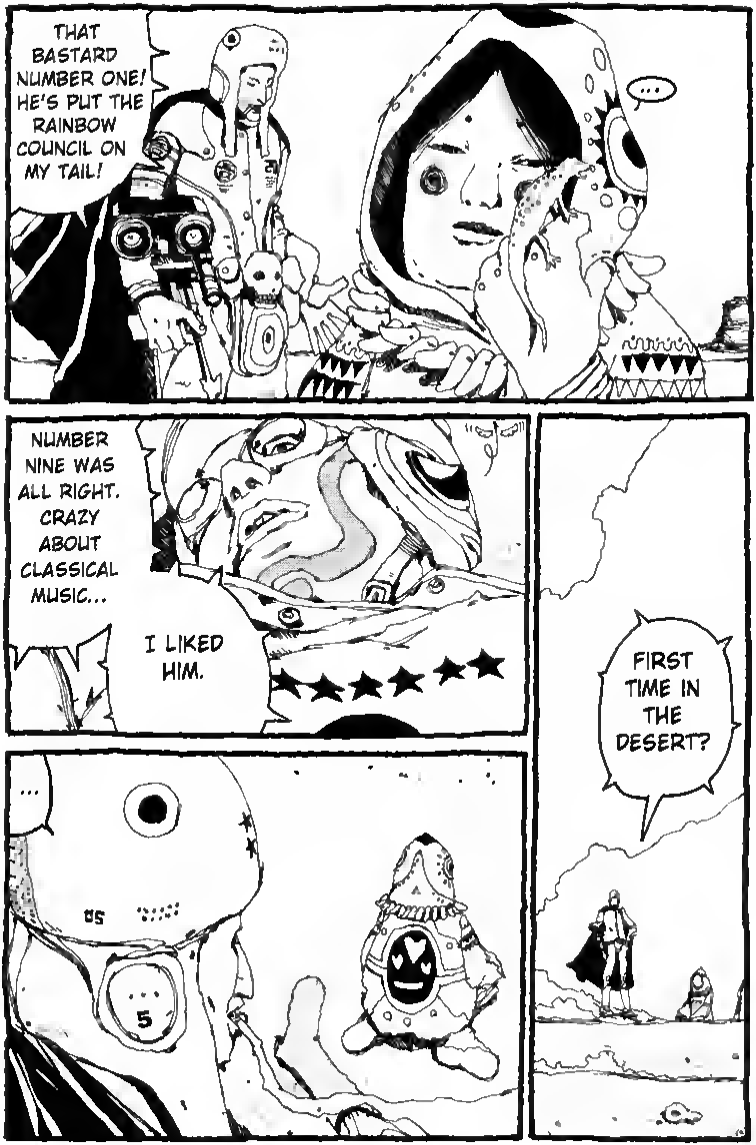


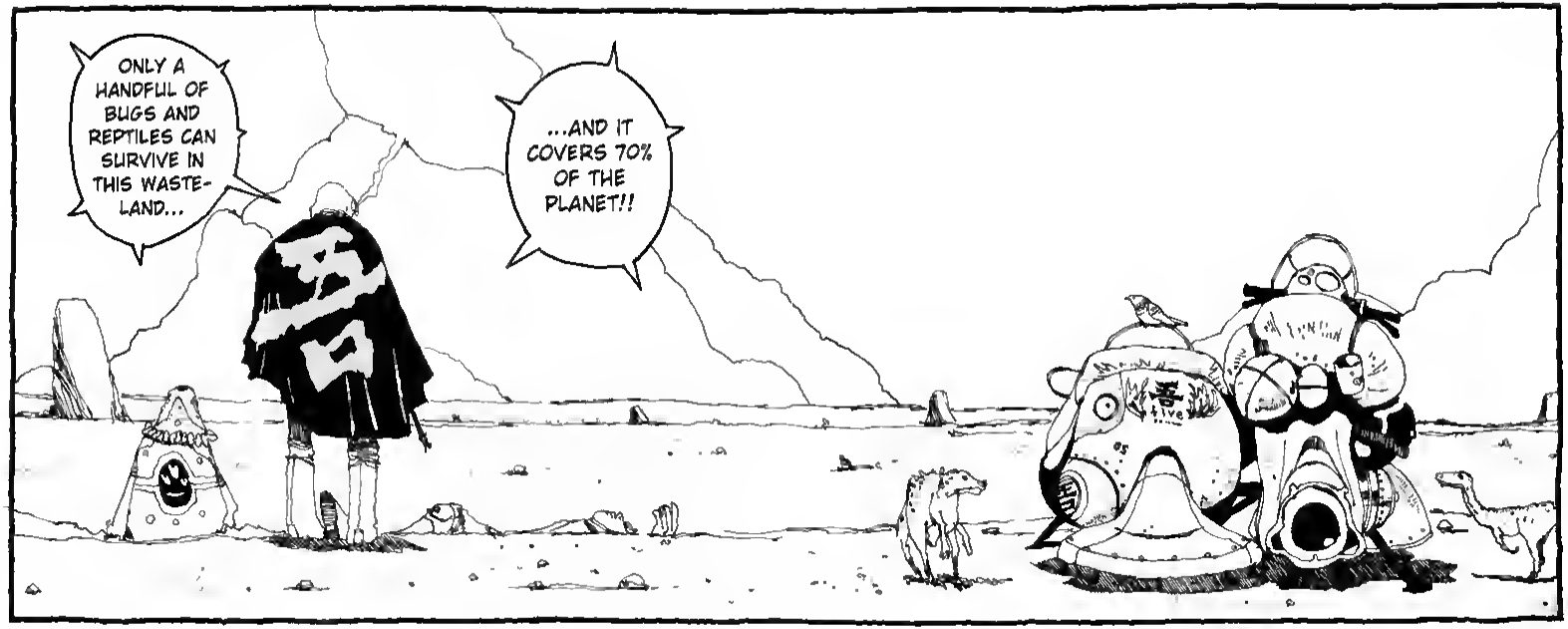

chapter 1 • desert
Matroshka
No. 7
No. 6
No. 2
No. 5
No. 8
No. 3
No. 4
No. 1



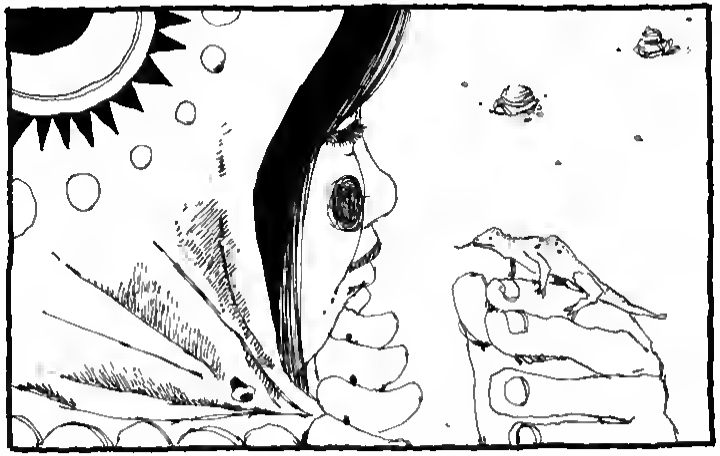



SO IT WAS *YOU*, NUMBER NINE...


THAT BASTARD NUMBER ONE! HE'S PUT THE RAINBOW COUNCIL ON MY TAIL!
...
NUMBER NINE WAS ALL RIGHT. CRAZY ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC...
I LIKED HIM.
FIRST TIME IN THE DESERT?
...
05
5

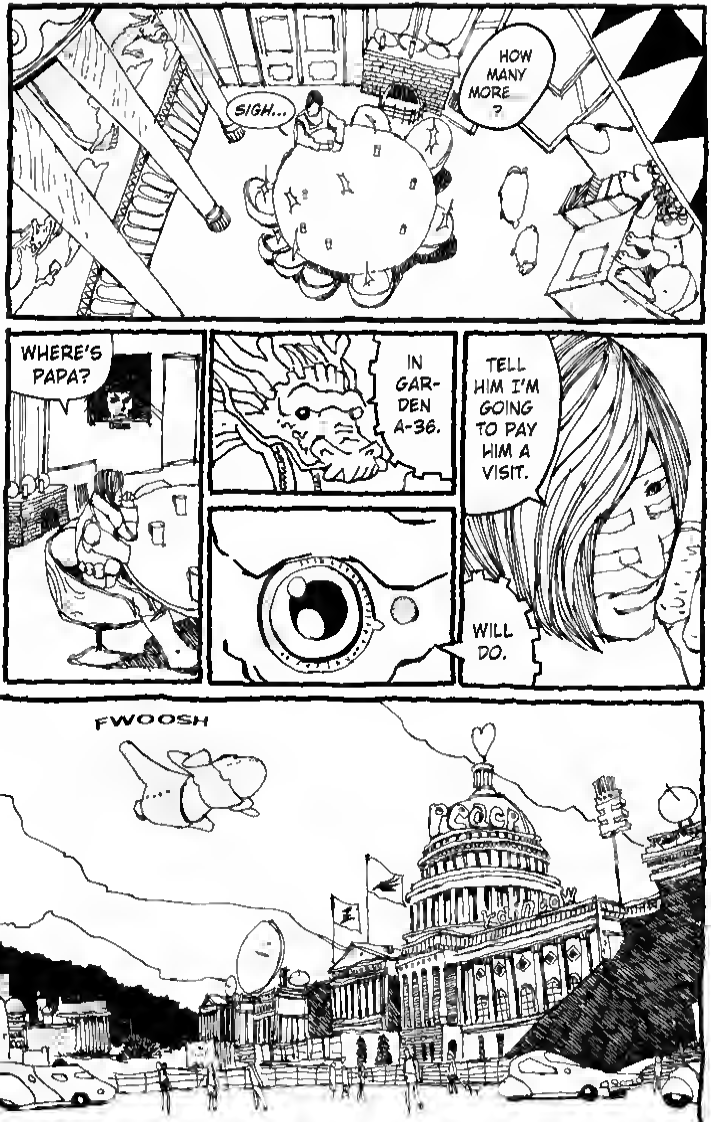

ONLY A HANDFUL OF BUGS AND REPTILES CAN SURVIVE IN THIS WASTE-LAND...
...AND IT COVERS 70% OF THE PLANET!!

I HATE THE DESERT.

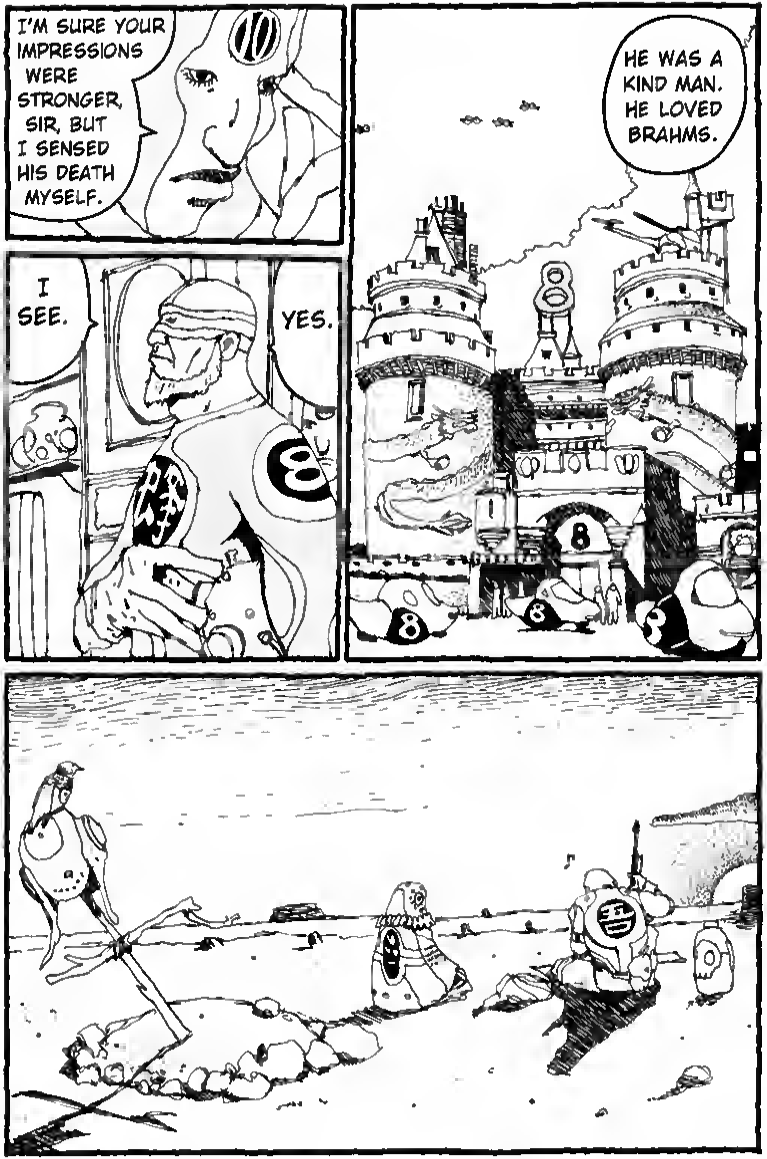


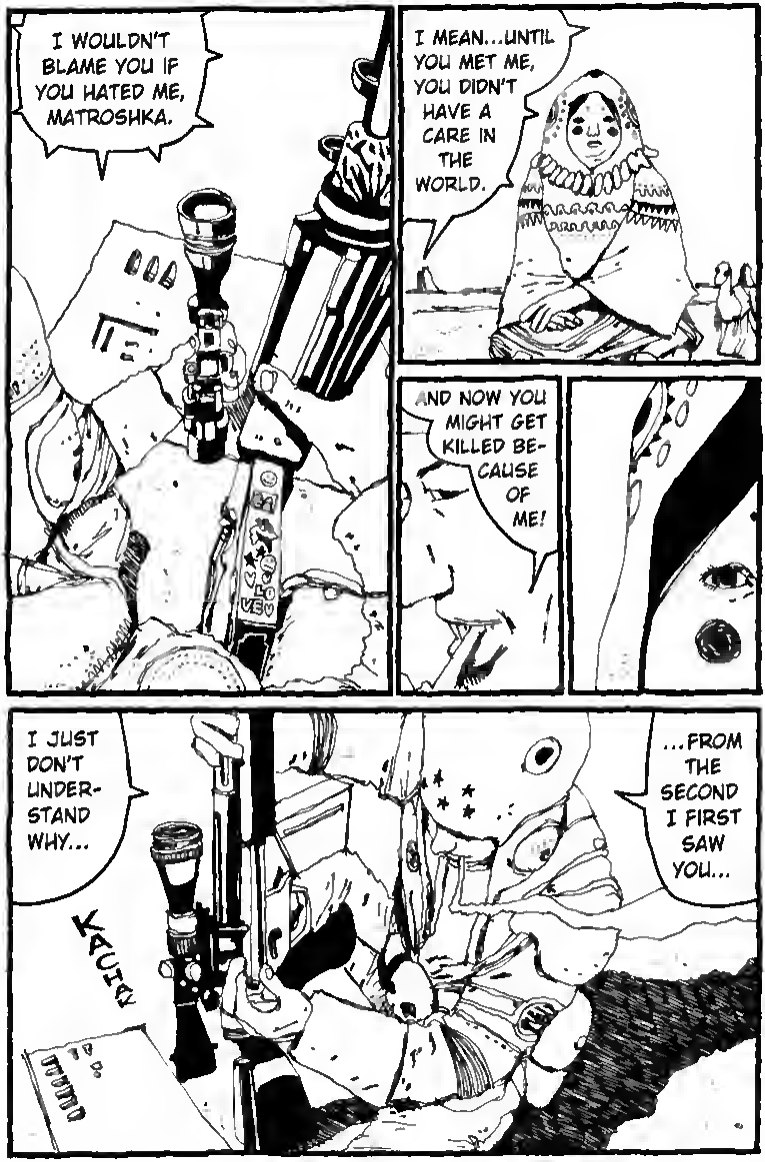
SSSIP..
Cold Tonight
THERE'S A 12-HOUR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR TIME ZONES, NUMBER FOUR...
...SO IT MUST BE MIDNIGHT FOR THE TWO OF YOU.
BLEW
YEP!
WE WERE STAR GAZIN'!
THE BIG DIPPER'S IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE, SO YOU FOLLOW THE "W" OF THE CASSIOPEIA TO FIND THE NORTH STAR.
UH-HUH.
NUMBER NINE WAS COOL.
HE WAS LIKE SIRIUS—THE BRIGHTEST STAR IN THE SKY!
YES, HE WAS.

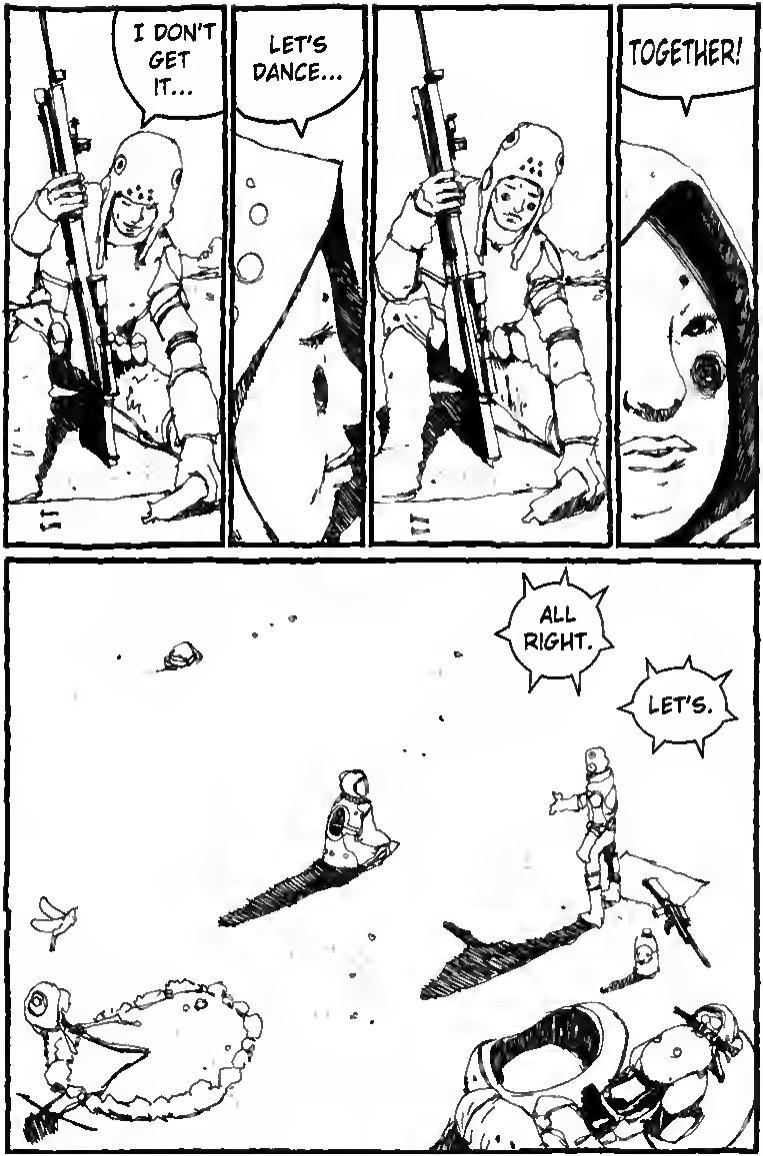
NUM-
BER
EIGHT...
KRAK
I SWEAR
TO
COMPLETE
MY
MISSION
AT ANY
COST!
TOK...
WE WISH YOU
GREAT SUCCESS.
WELL, THAT
CONCLUDES
OUR MEETING
THEN.
WHAT
ABOUT
THE
CODE?
YOU
CAN'T BE
SERIOUS...

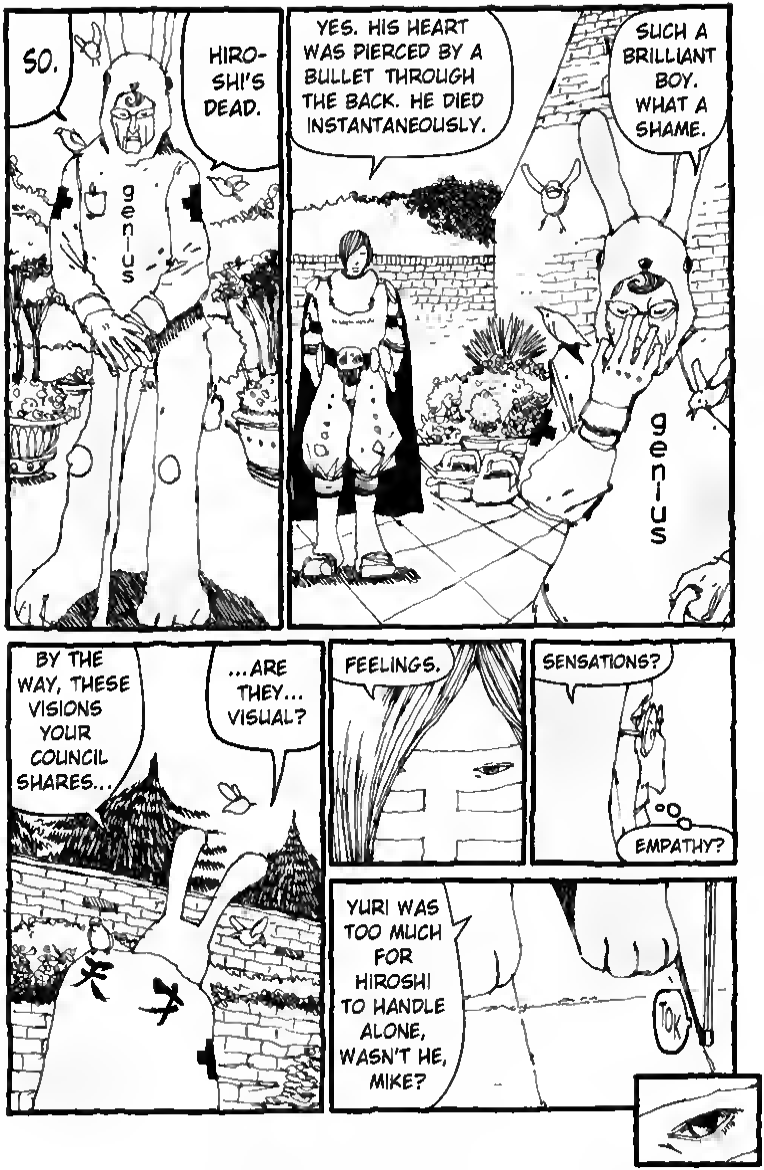

SIGH...
HOW MANY MORE ?
WHERE'S PAPA?
IN GAR-DEN A-36.
TELL HIM I'M GOING TO PAY HIM A VISIT.
WILL DO.
FWOOSH
PCOCP

VEEEP
WEL-COME BACK, SIR.
THANK YOU.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I'VE BEEN INSIDE THIS CONTRAPTION, I CAN'T GET USED TO IT.
MR. NINE HAS... PASSED ON.
!


I'M SURE YOUR IMPRESSIONS WERE STRONGER, SIR, BUT I SENSED HIS DEATH MYSELF.
HE WAS A KIND MAN. HE LOVED BRAHMS.
I SEE.
YES.

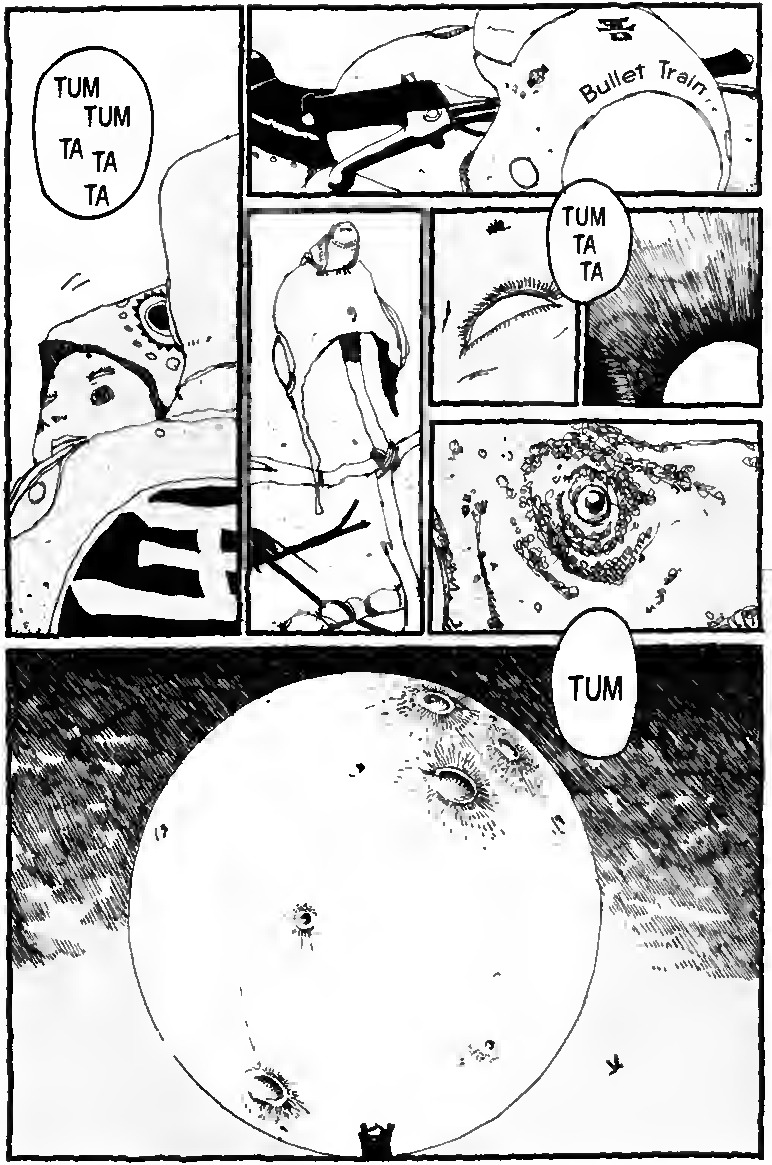

I WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU HATED ME, MATROSHKA.
I MEAN...UNTIL YOU MET ME, YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CARE IN THE WORLD.
AND NOW YOU MIGHT GET KILLED BECAUSE OF ME!
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY...
...FROM THE SECOND I FIRST SAW YOU...
KAUTH

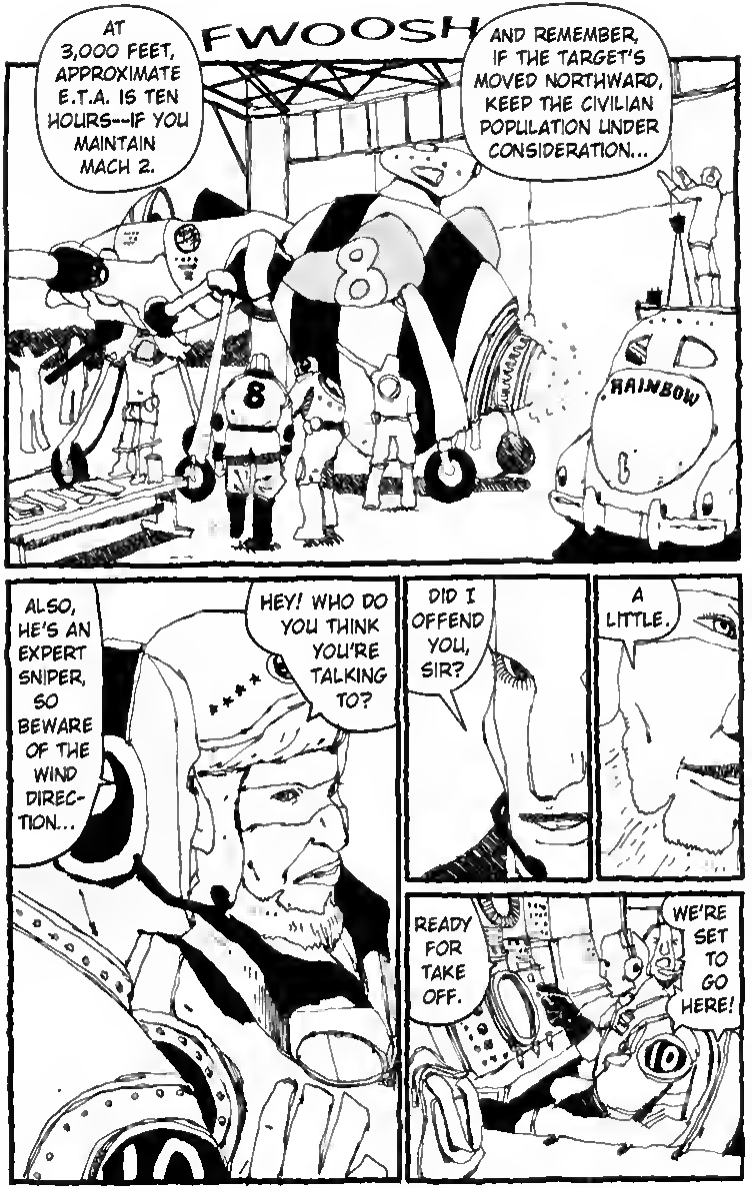

I DON'T GET IT...
LET'S DANCE...
TOGETHER!
ALL RIGHT.
LET'S.

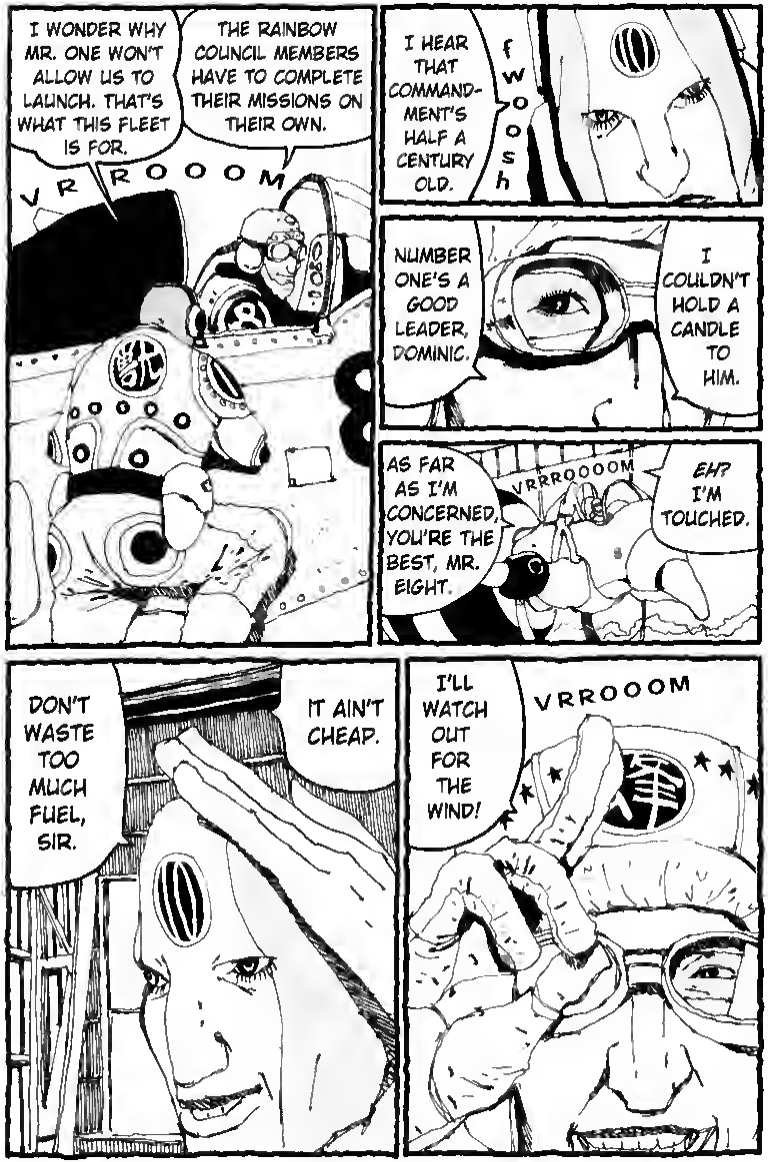

SO.
HIROSHI'S DEAD.
genius
YES. HIS HEART WAS PIERCED BY A BULLET THROUGH THE BACK. HE DIED INSTANTANEOUSLY.
SUCH A BRILLIANT BOY. WHAT A SHAME.
genius
BY THE WAY, THESE VISIONS YOUR COUNCIL SHARES...
...ARE THEY... VISUAL?
FEELINGS.
SENSATIONS?
EMPATHY?
YURI WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIROSHI TO HANDLE ALONE, WASN'T HE, MIKE?
TOK

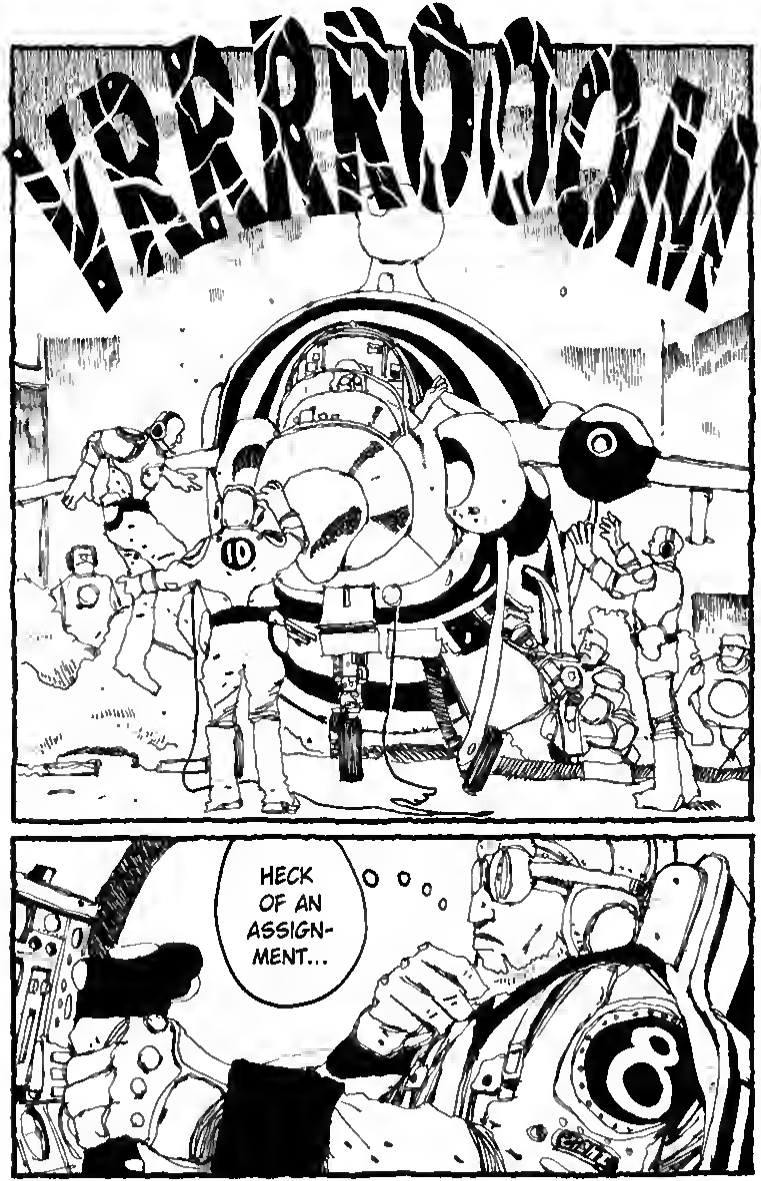
AFTER ALL, A JOB LIKE THAT REQUIRES A CONCERTED EFFORT.
BUT WE FOLLOWED THE CODE OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL!
THAT'S PASSÉ.
HAWK WOULD HAVE DISREGARDED IT COMPLETELY.
BUT I'M THE LEADER NOW! HAWK IS NUMBER SIX!
AND I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU'D STOP CALLING US BY NAME...
number 1
DON'T THINK THE RAINBOW COUNCIL BELONGS TO YOU NOW.
THIS SITUATION IS FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN YOU REALIZE!
head

...FAR MORE...
TUM
TA TA...
Step
TUM!
Quick Step
Quick Step
TUM TA...
Step
START
Line of Dance
1 (S)
2 (QS)
3 (QS)
4 (S)
5 (QS)
6 (QS)
TUM

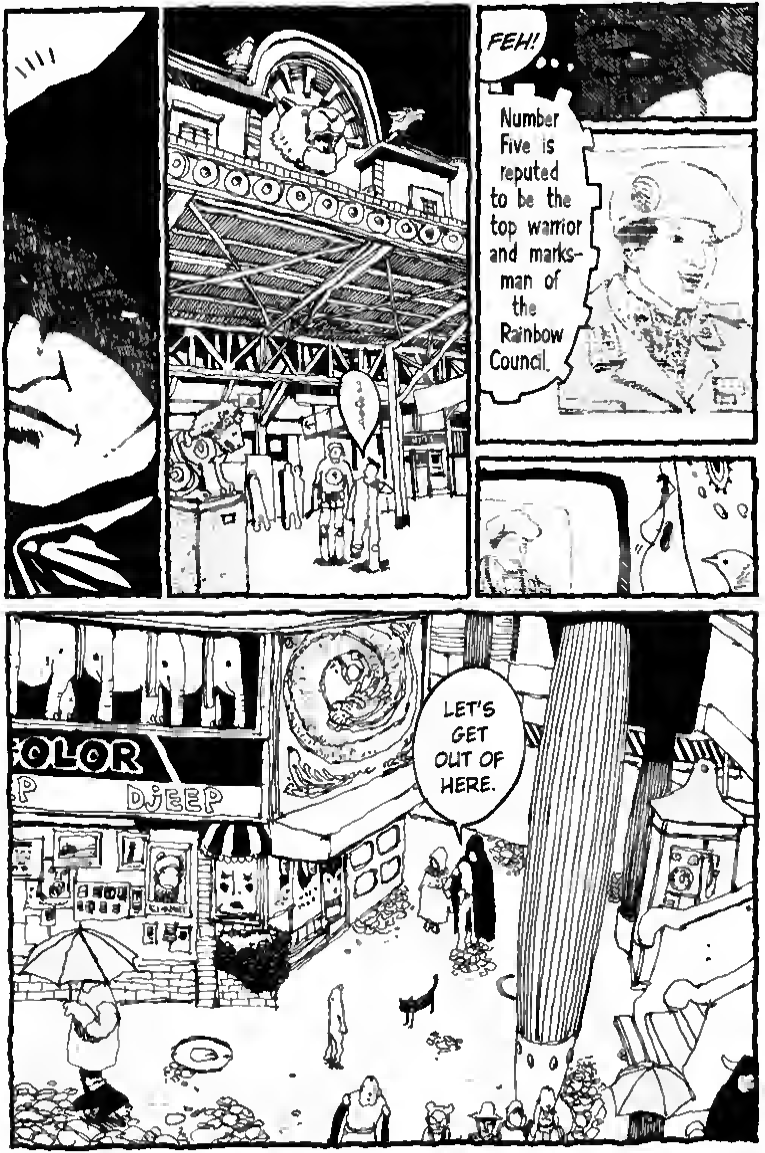

TUM
TUM
TA TA
TA
Bullet Train
TUM
TA
TA
TUM

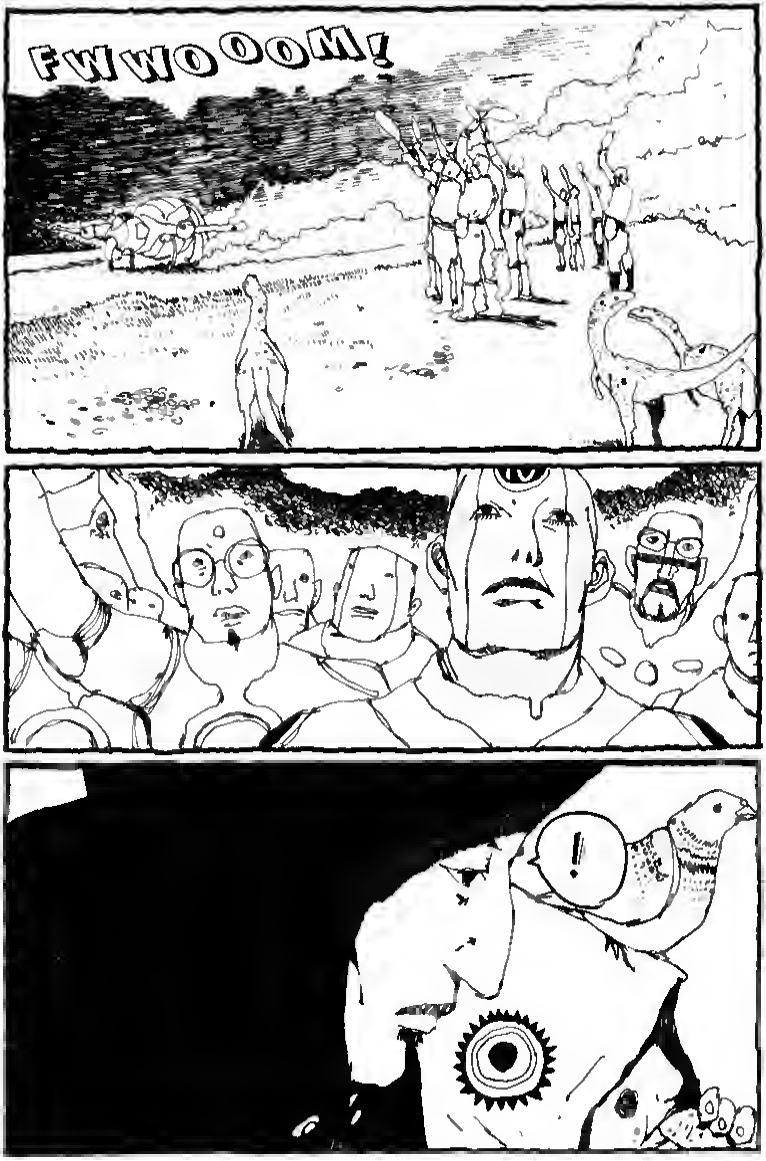

FWOOSH
AT 3,000 FEET, APPROXIMATE E.T.A. IS TEN HOURS--IF YOU MAINTAIN MACH 2.
AND REMEMBER, IF THE TARGET'S MOVED NORTHWARD, KEEP THE CIVILIAN POPULATION UNDER CONSIDERATION...
RAINBOW
ALSO, HE'S AN EXPERT SNIPER, SO BEWARE OF THE WIND DIREC-TION...
HEY! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TALKING TO?
DID I OFFEND YOU, SIR?
A LITTLE.
READY FOR TAKE OFF.
WE'RE SET TO GO HERE!

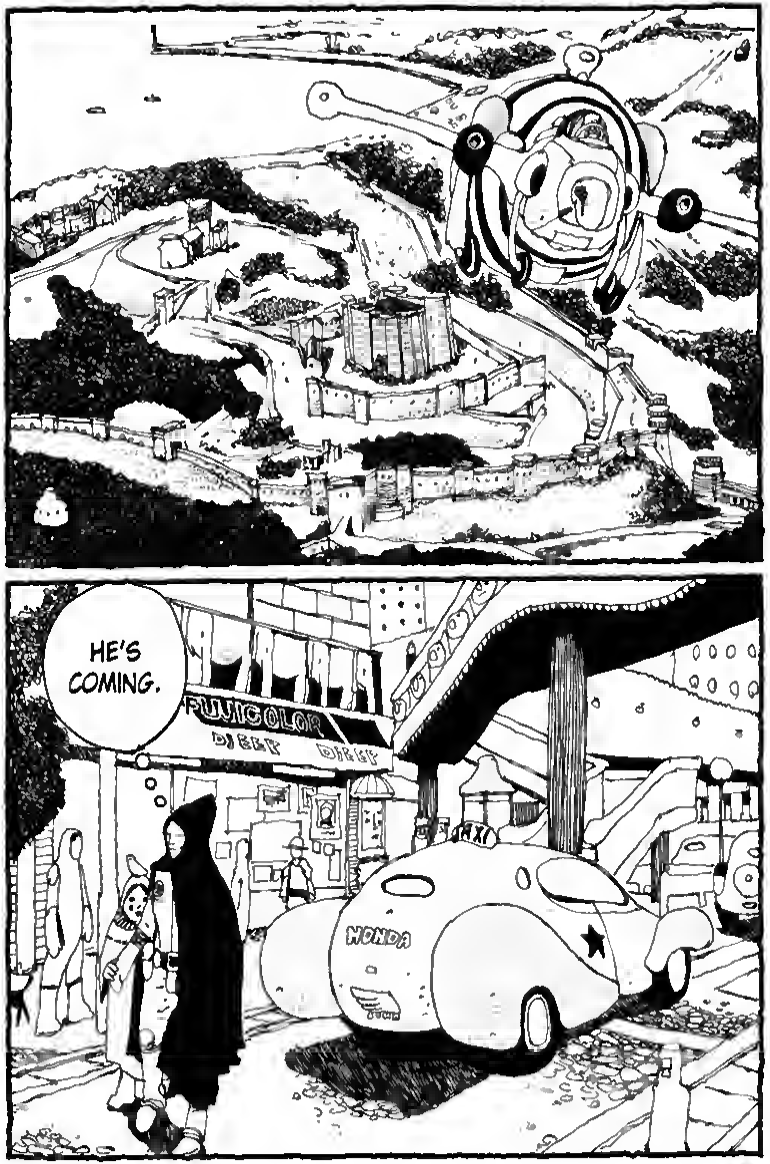

I WONDER WHY MR. ONE WON'T ALLOW US TO LAUNCH. THAT'S WHAT THIS FLEET IS FOR.
THE RAINBOW COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE TO COMPLETE THEIR MISSIONS ON THEIR OWN.
VR ROOOOM
I HEAR THAT COMMANDMENT'S HALF A CENTURY OLD.
fwoosh
NUMBER ONE'S A GOOD LEADER, DOMINIC.
I COULDN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO HIM.
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU'RE THE BEST, MR. EIGHT.
VRRROOOOM
EH? I'M TOUCHED.
DON'T WASTE TOO MUCH FUEL, SIR.
IT AIN'T CHEAP.
I'LL WATCH OUT FOR THE WIND!
VRROOOM

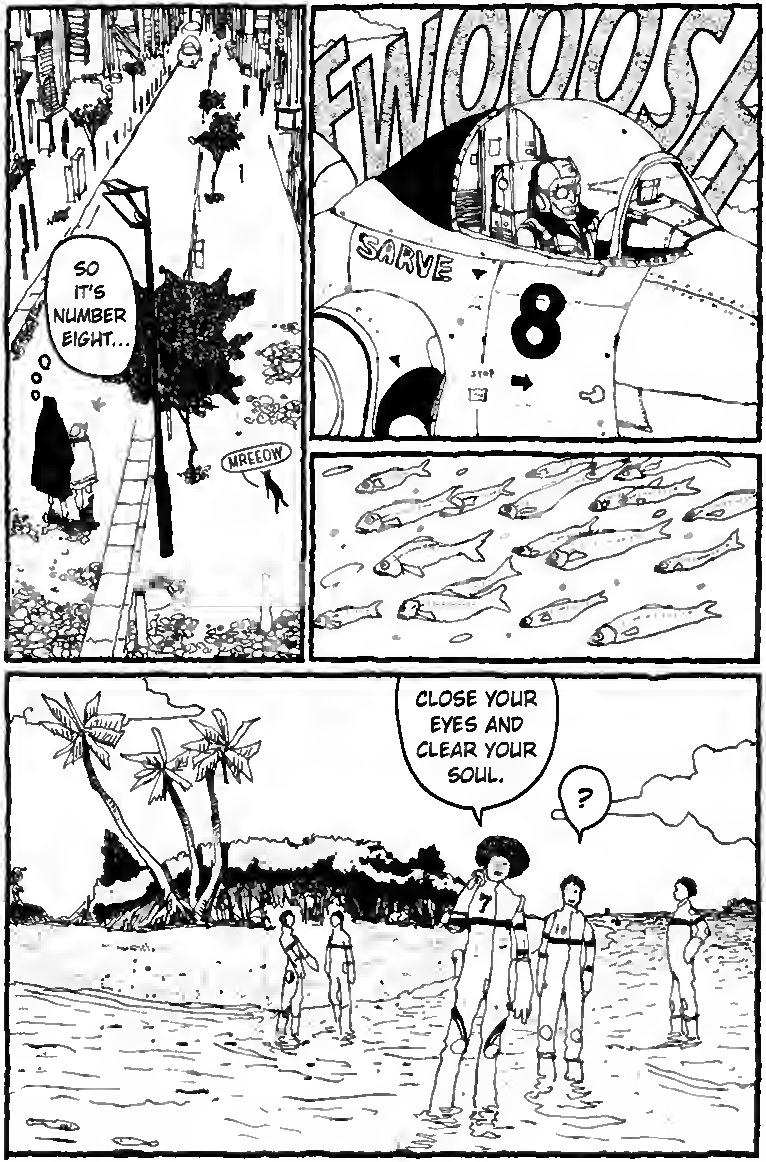

VRRROOM
HECK OF AN ASSIGN-MENT...

The body of Number Nine has been discovered in the Galola Desert. Number Nine was a member of the elite Rainbow Council of the International Peace Keeping Forces.
Further investigation has revealed that the prime suspect in the murder is fellow council member Number Five. Police have issued an all-points bulletin.
Two months have passed since Number Fives escape following his abduction of a woman. Now the Rainbow Council has suffered their first casualty in this affair.
HUH!
MNCH MNCH
Supreme Headquarters Chief Donovan has announced that troops may be dispatched within a month if the current crisis continues.
WANT A BITE?
UH-HUH.
post card
WIT DO CoMO


!!!!
FEH!
...
Number Five is reputed to be the top warrior and marksman of the Rainbow Council.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
DJEEP

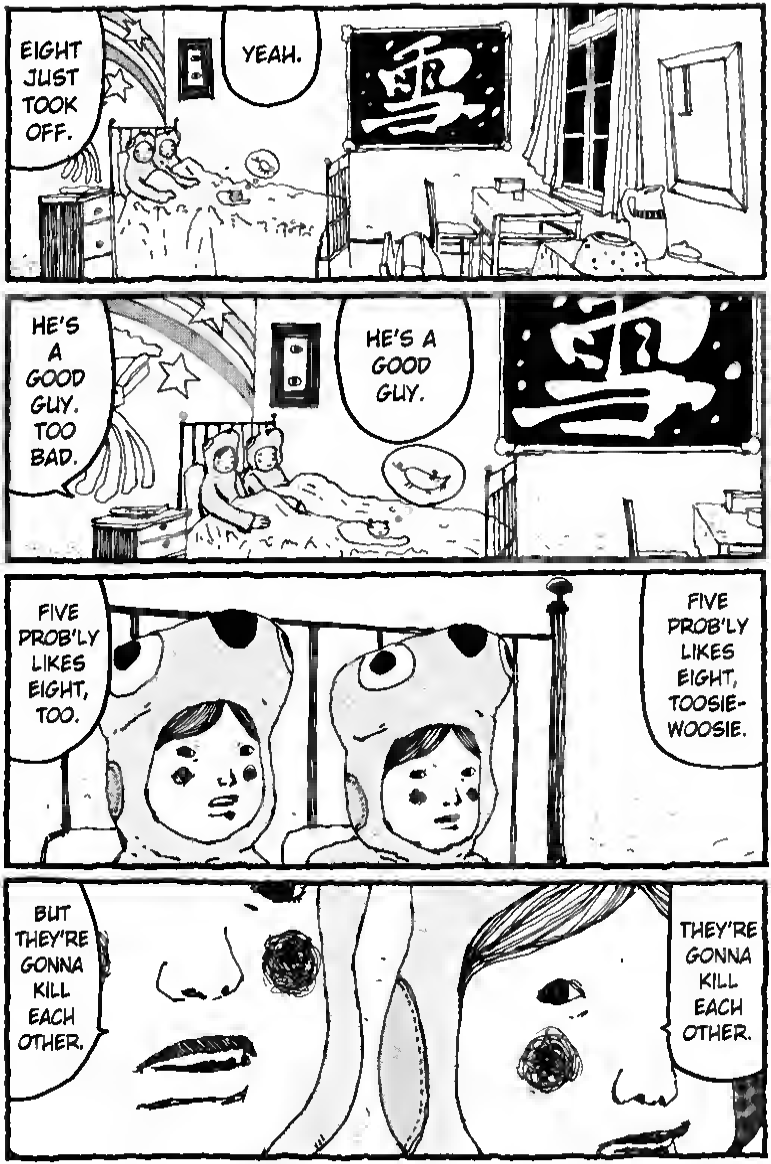

FWWOOOM!
!

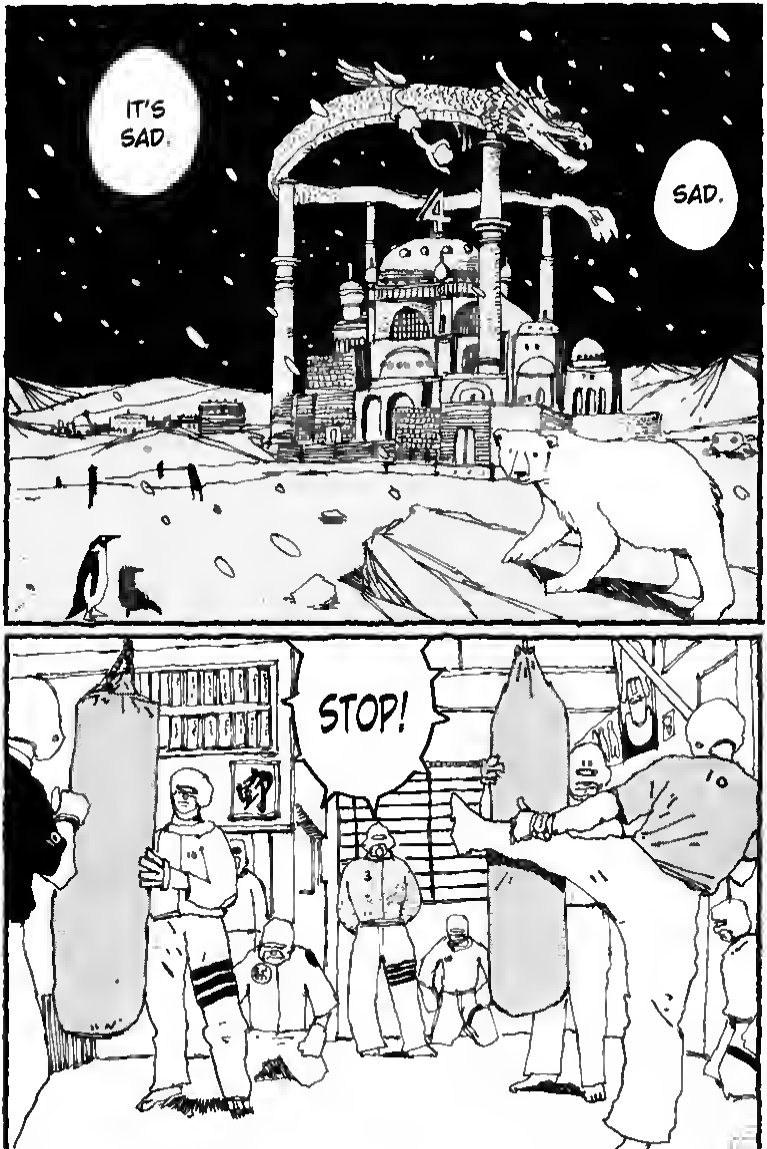

HE'S COMING.
FUJICOLOR
HONDA

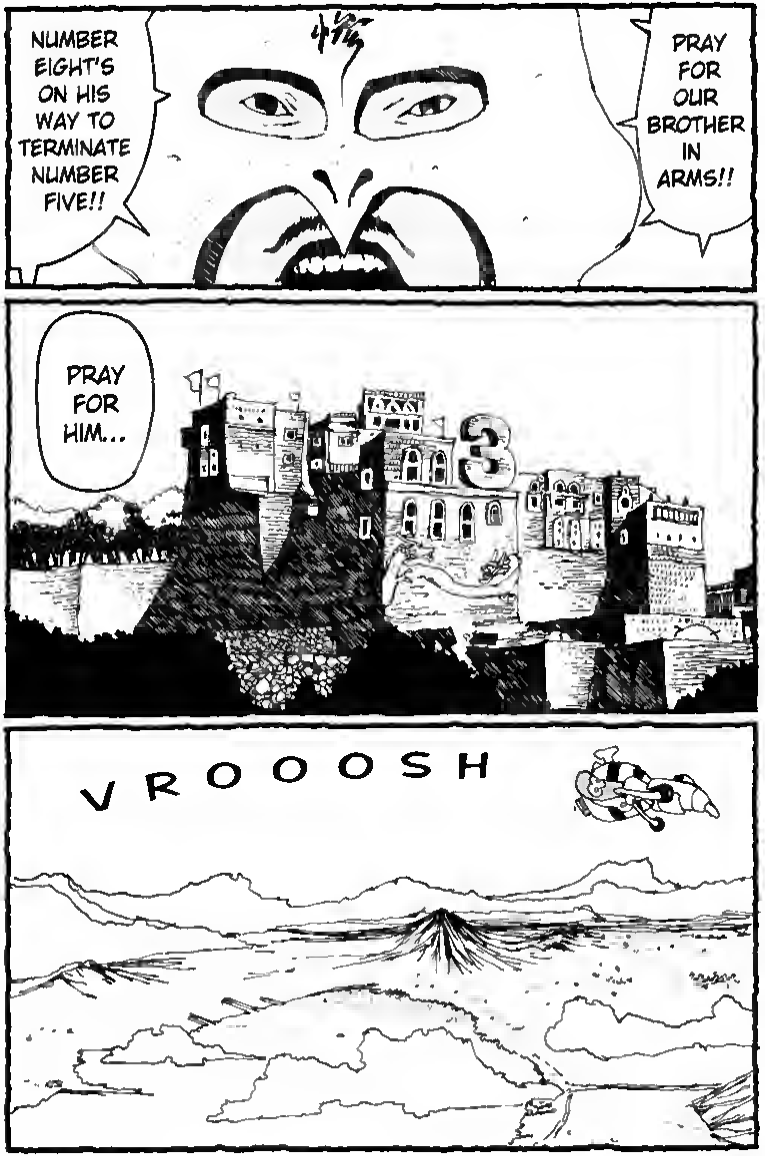

SO IT'S NUMBER EIGHT...
MREEOW
FWOOOOSH
SARVE
8
CLOSE YOUR EYES AND CLEAR YOUR SOUL.
?
7

NOW TELL ME WHAT YOU FEEL.
HMMM.
I'M HUNGRY, MR. SEVEN.
I SEE. LET'S EAT THEN.
PUSH
...!!

NUMBER EIGHT...
CAPTAIN– IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?
KLOP KLOP
NAH.
DAMN!
Tup
FWEEEEE

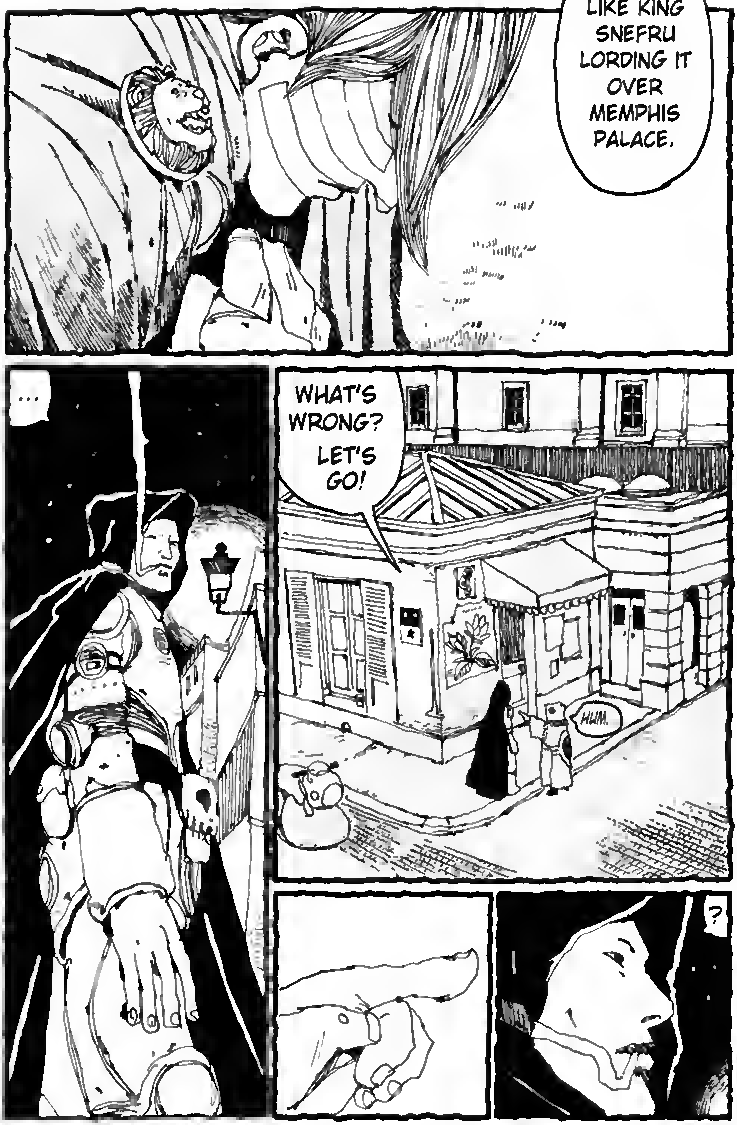

EIGHT JUST TOOK OFF.
YEAH.
HE'S A GOOD GUY. TOO BAD.
HE'S A GOOD GUY.
FIVE PROB'LY LIKES EIGHT, TOO.
FIVE PROB'LY LIKES EIGHT, TOOSIE-WOOSIE.
BUT THEY'RE GONNA KILL EACH OTHER.
THEY'RE GONNA KILL EACH OTHER.

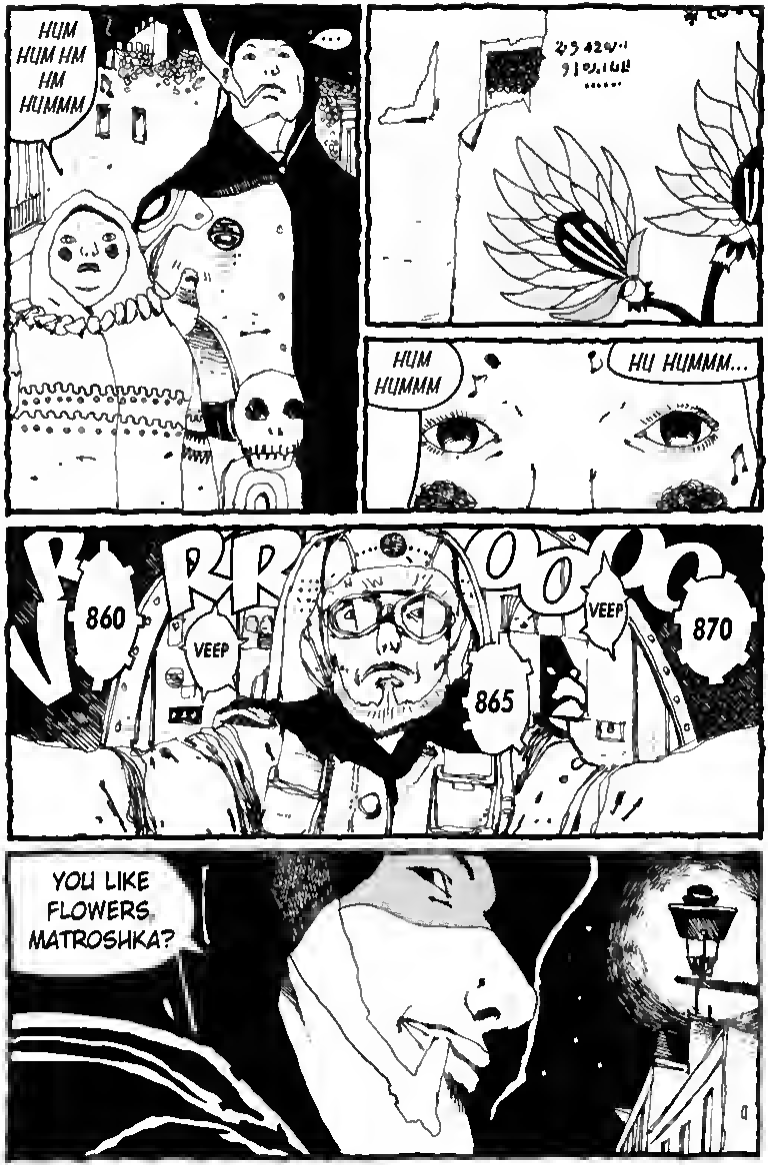

IT'S SAD.
SAD.
STOP!

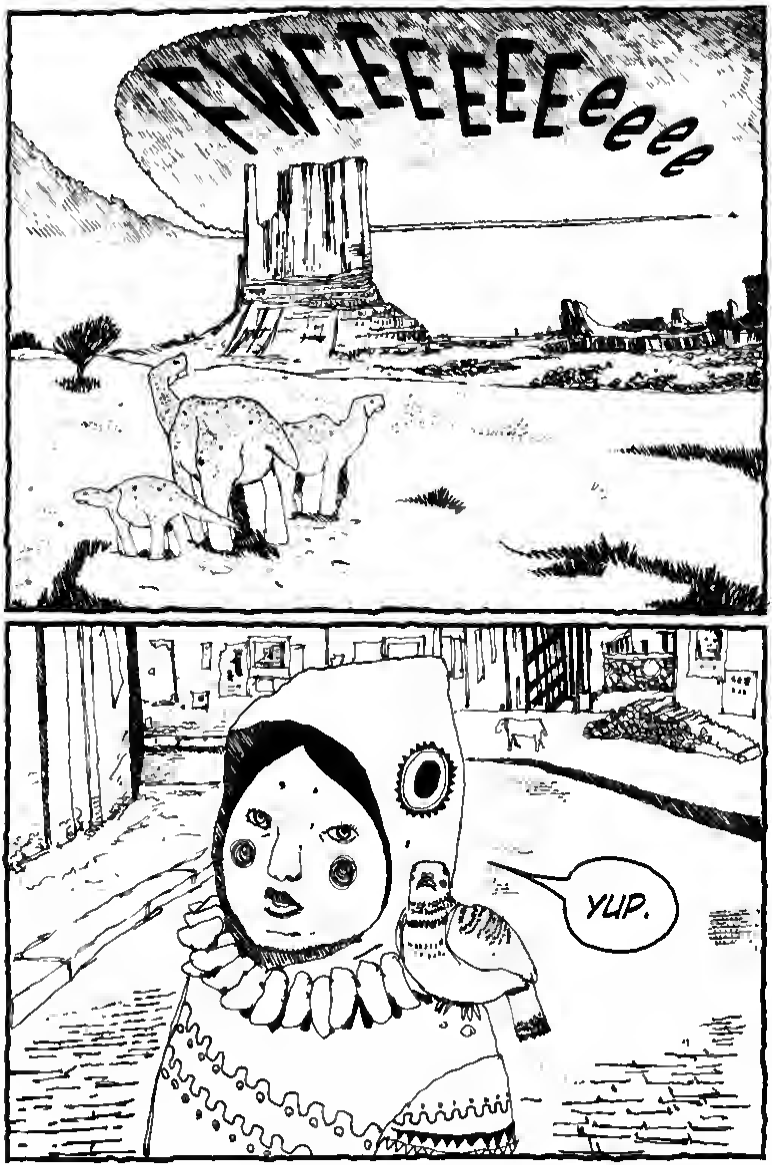

NUMBER EIGHT'S ON HIS WAY TO TERMINATE NUMBER FIVE!!
PRAY FOR OUR BROTHER IN ARMS!!
PRAY FOR HIM...
VROOOSH

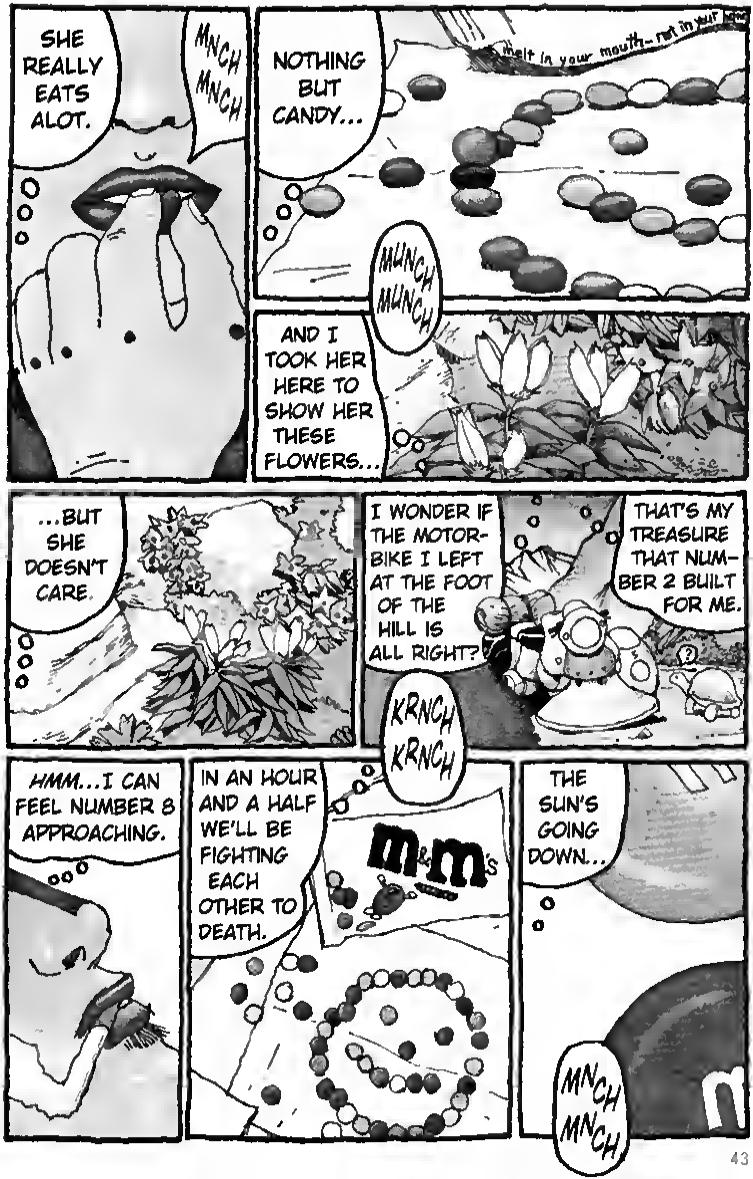
NUMBER EIGHT DOESN'T HAVE A CHANCE...
BUT HE'S THE STRONGEST OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL, ISN'T HE?
COMBAT ISN'T ARM WREST-LING.
THINK ABOUT IT. FIVE'S GOT THE SMARTS OF A KID. SO HOW DO YOU FIGURE HE GOT INTO THE RAINBOW COUNCIL?
BUT ISN'T THE PROB-LEM THE WOMAN?
THE ONE THEY CALL "MA-TROSHKA."
THAT'S JUST A NICK-NAME...
MADE IT UP MYSELF! HA, HA!

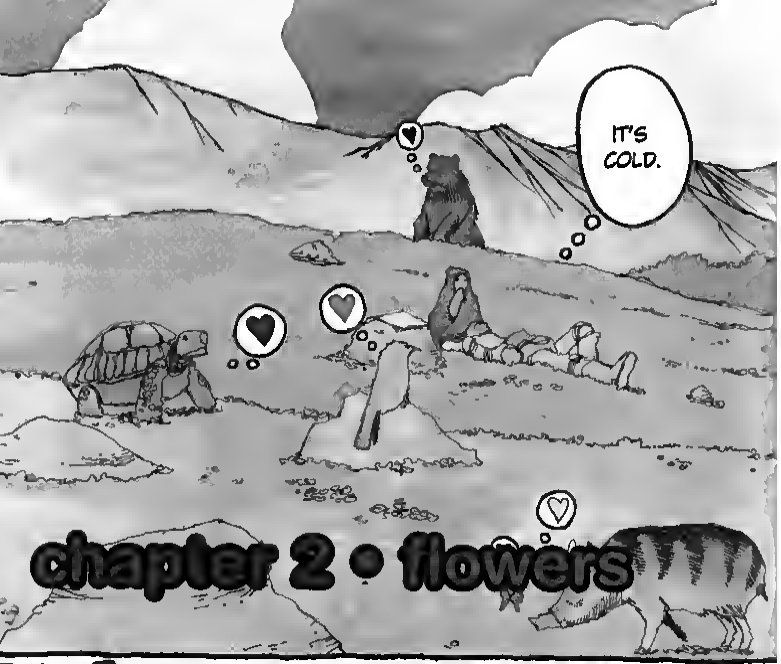
IS THAT SO...?
IN ANY CASE, IT'LL BE A MIRACLE IF NUMBER EIGHT TAKES OUT NUMBER FIVE.
HAVE YOU TOLD NUMBER ONE?
NO...
WOULDN'T DARE.
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE IN THE RAINBOW COUNCIL WHO ISN'T SCARED OF HIM. DO YOU?


HE'S LIKE KING SNEFRU LORDING IT OVER MEMPHIS PALACE.
...
WHAT'S WRONG? LET'S GO!
HUM.
?

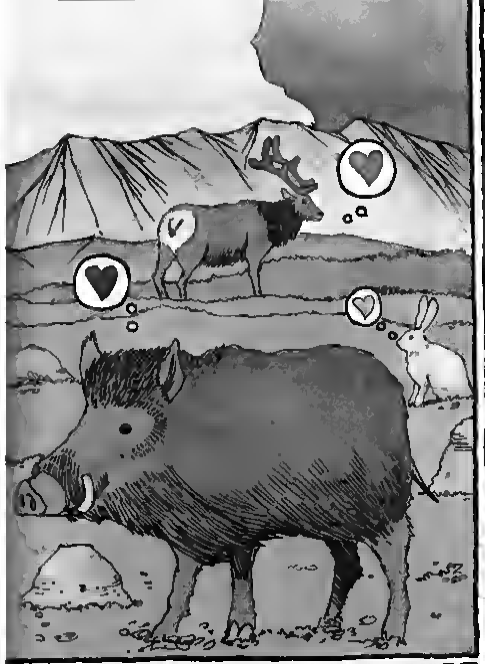

HUM HUM HM HM HUMMM
HUM HUMMM
HU HUMMM...
860
VEEP
865
VEEP
870
YOU LIKE FLOWERS, MATROSHKA?

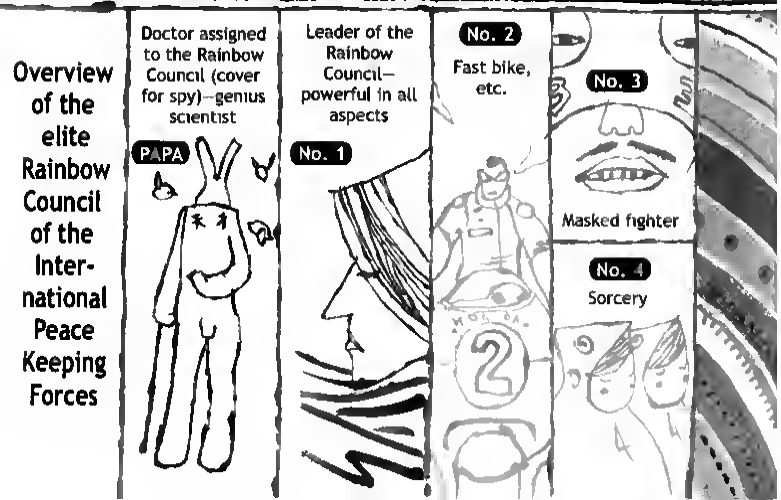

FWEEEEEEEeeee
YUP.

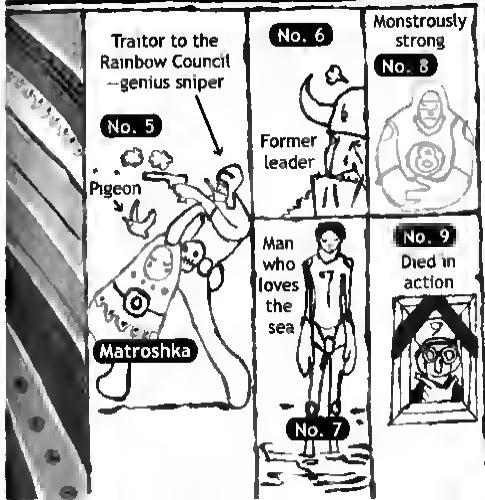

SHE REALLY EATS ALOT.
MNCH MNCH
NOTHING BUT CANDY...
melt in your mouth- not in your hand
MUNCH MUNCH
AND I TOOK HER HERE TO SHOW HER THESE FLOWERS...
...BUT SHE DOESN'T CARE.
I WONDER IF THE MOTOR-BIKE I LEFT AT THE FOOT OF THE HILL IS ALL RIGHT?
KRNCH KRNCH
THAT'S MY TREASURE THAT NUM-BER 2 BUILT FOR ME.
HMM...I CAN FEEL NUMBER 8 APPROACHING.
IN AN HOUR AND A HALF WE'LL BE FIGHTING EACH OTHER TO DEATH.
m&m's
THE SUN'S GOING DOWN...
MNCH MNCH

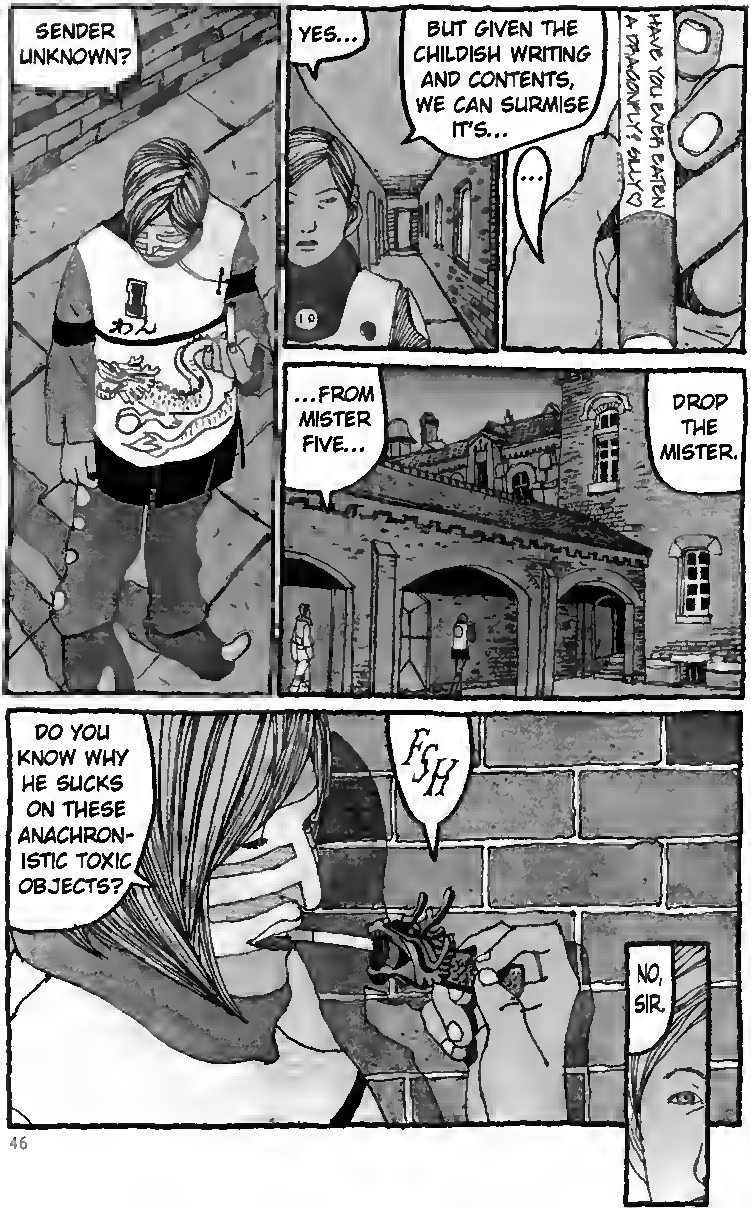


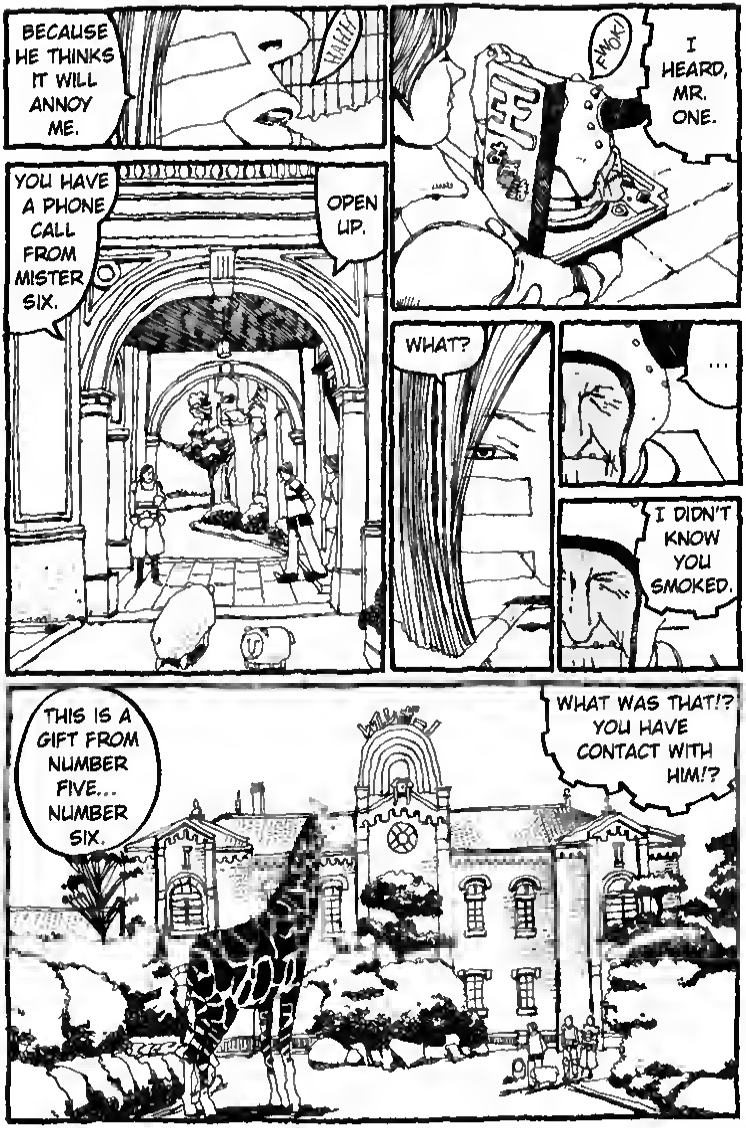
chapter 2 • flowers

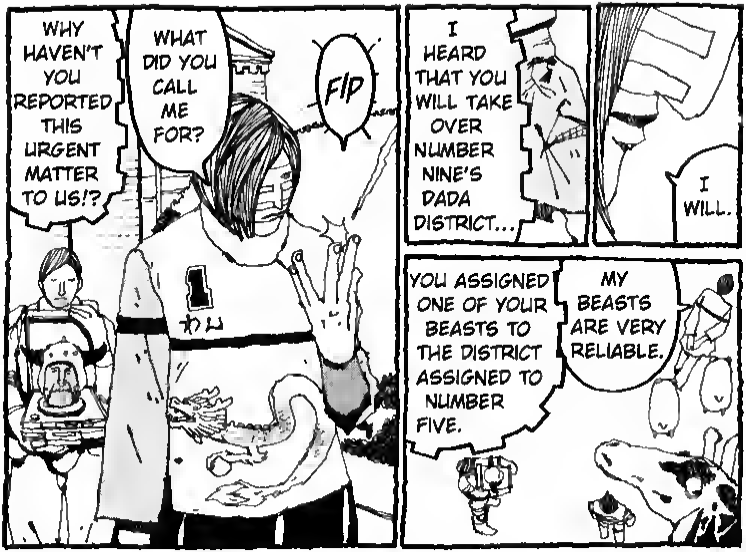


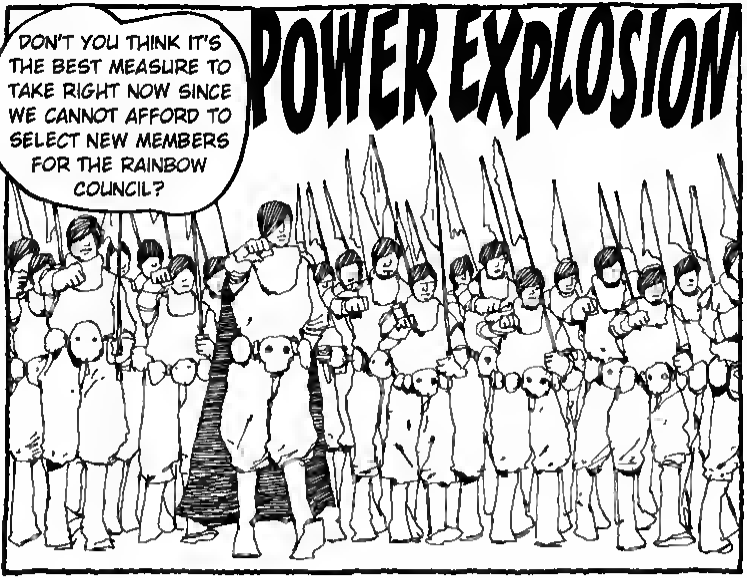

Overview of the elite Rainbow Council of the International Peace Keeping Forces
Doctor assigned to the Rainbow Council (cover for spy)—genius scientist
PAPA
Leader of the Rainbow Council—powerful in all aspects
No. 1
No. 2
Fast bike, etc.
No. 3
Masked fighter
No. 4
Sorcery



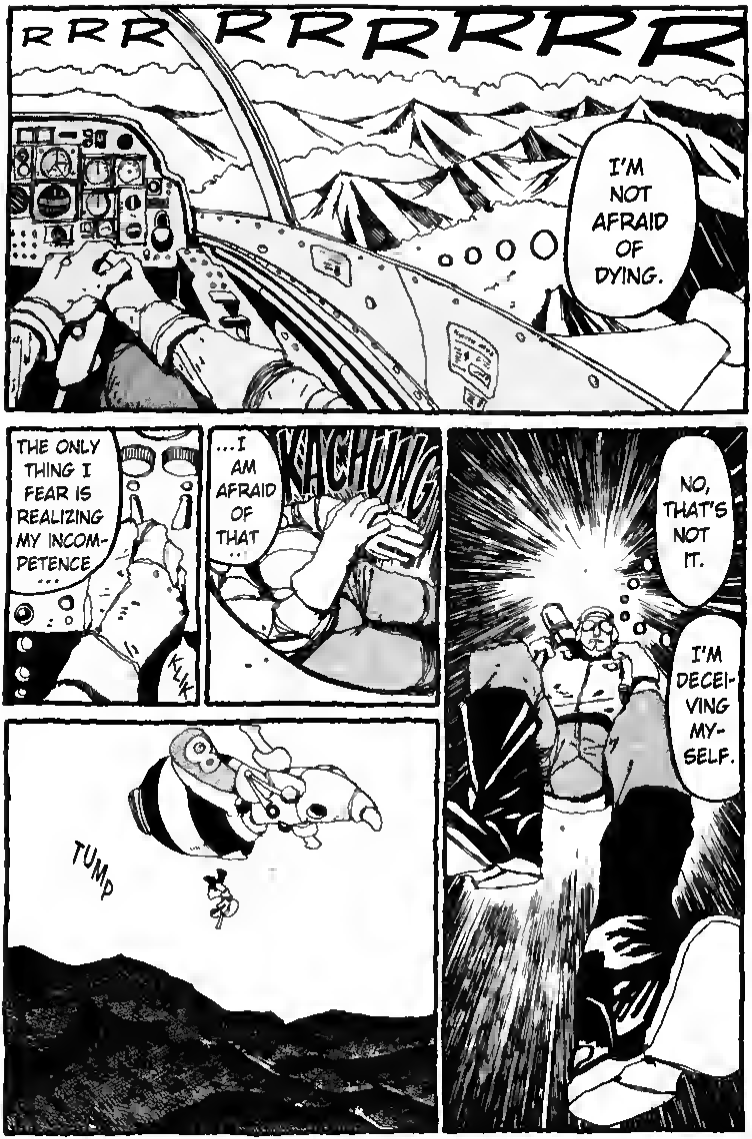

SENDER UNKNOWN?
YES...
BUT GIVEN THE CHILDISH WRITING AND CONTENTS, WE CAN SURMISE IT'S...
...
HAVE YOU EVER EATEN A DRAGONFLY? SILLY!
...FROM MISTER FIVE...
DROP THE MISTER.
DO YOU KNOW WHY HE SUCKS ON THESE ANACHRONISTIC TOXIC OBJECTS?
FSH
NO, SIR.


BECAUSE HE THINKS IT WILL ANNOY ME.
HAHAH!
I HEARD, MR. ONE.
SMOKE
OPEN UP.
YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM MISTER SIX.
WHAT?
...
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SMOKED.
THIS IS A GIFT FROM NUMBER FIVE... NUMBER SIX.
WHAT WAS THAT!? YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH HIM!?

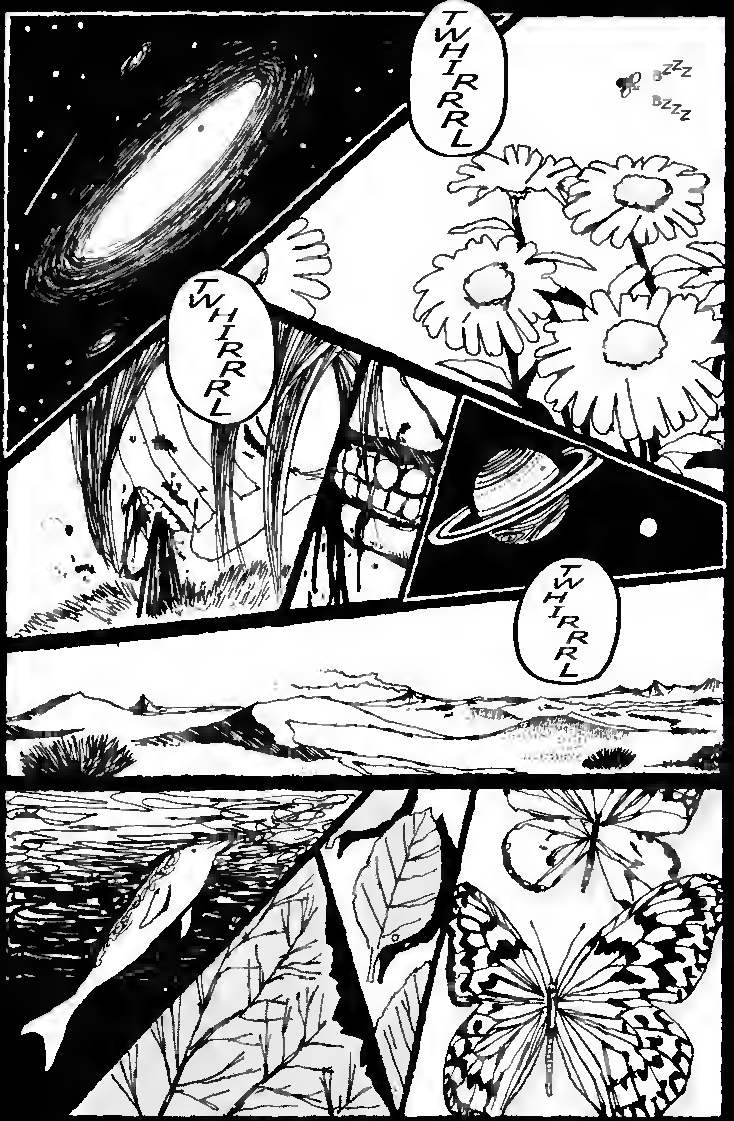

WHY HAVEN'T YOU REPORTED THIS URGENT MATTER TO US!?
WHAT DID YOU CALL ME FOR?
FIP
I HEARD THAT YOU WILL TAKE OVER NUMBER NINE'S DADA DISTRICT...
I WILL.
YOU ASSIGNED ONE OF YOUR BEASTS TO THE DISTRICT ASSIGNED TO NUMBER FIVE.
MY BEASTS ARE VERY RELIABLE.

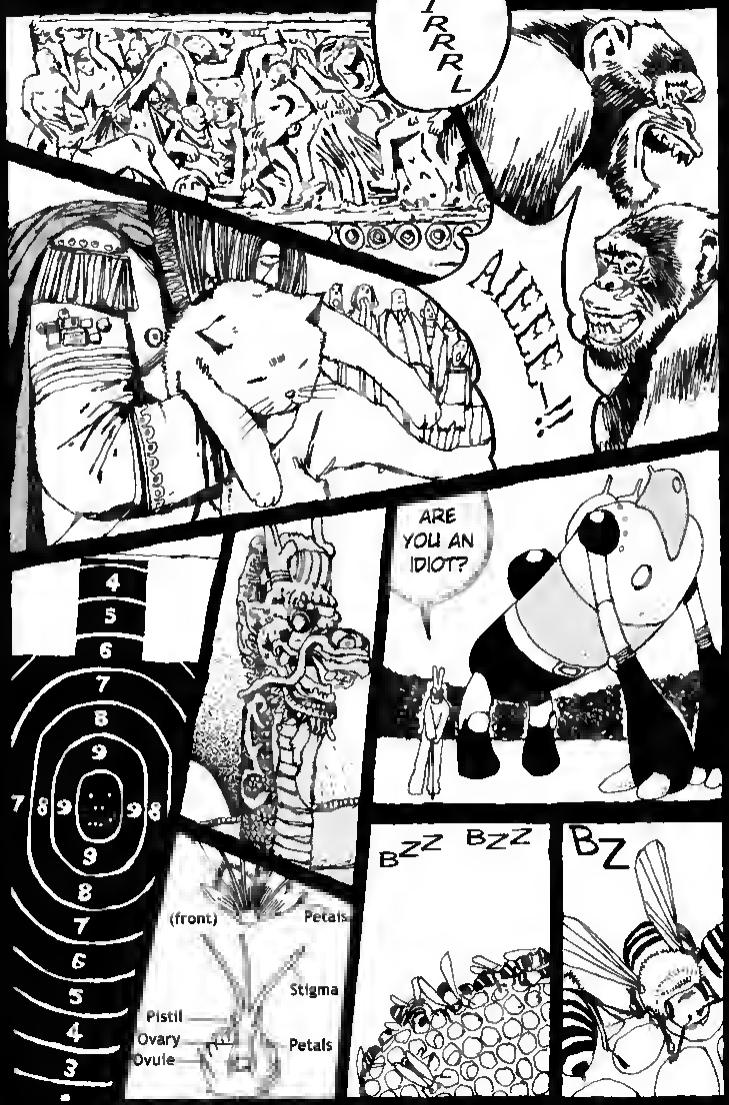

POWER EXPLOSION
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S THE BEST MEASURE TO TAKE RIGHT NOW SINCE WE CANNOT AFFORD TO SELECT NEW MEMBERS FOR THE RAINBOW COUNCIL?

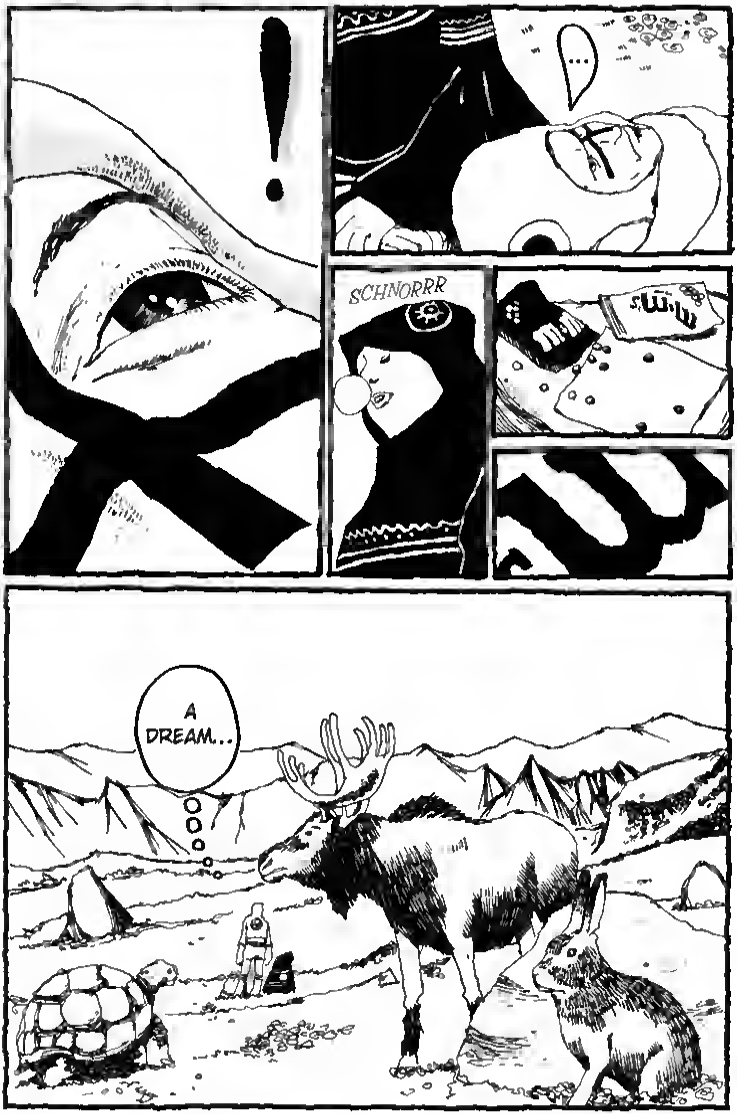
I ADVISE YOU TO STAY OUT OF MY AFFAIRS.
MNCH MNCH
URRR...
FWOK!
A CALL FROM THE DOCTOR, SIR.
HOW ARE YOU DOING, MIKE?
...
FINE.
I NEED YOU TO COME VISIT ME LATER.
I WILL THEN.
"Fine" yeah right you little brat-
Whos responsible for you making it this...
ZZZ


RRR RRRRRR
3G
I'M NOT AFRAID OF DYING.
THE ONLY THING I FEAR IS REALIZING MY INCOMPETENCE....
KLUNK
...I AM AFRAID OF THAT...
KACHUNG
NO, THAT'S NOT IT.
I'M DECEIVING MYSELF.
TUMP

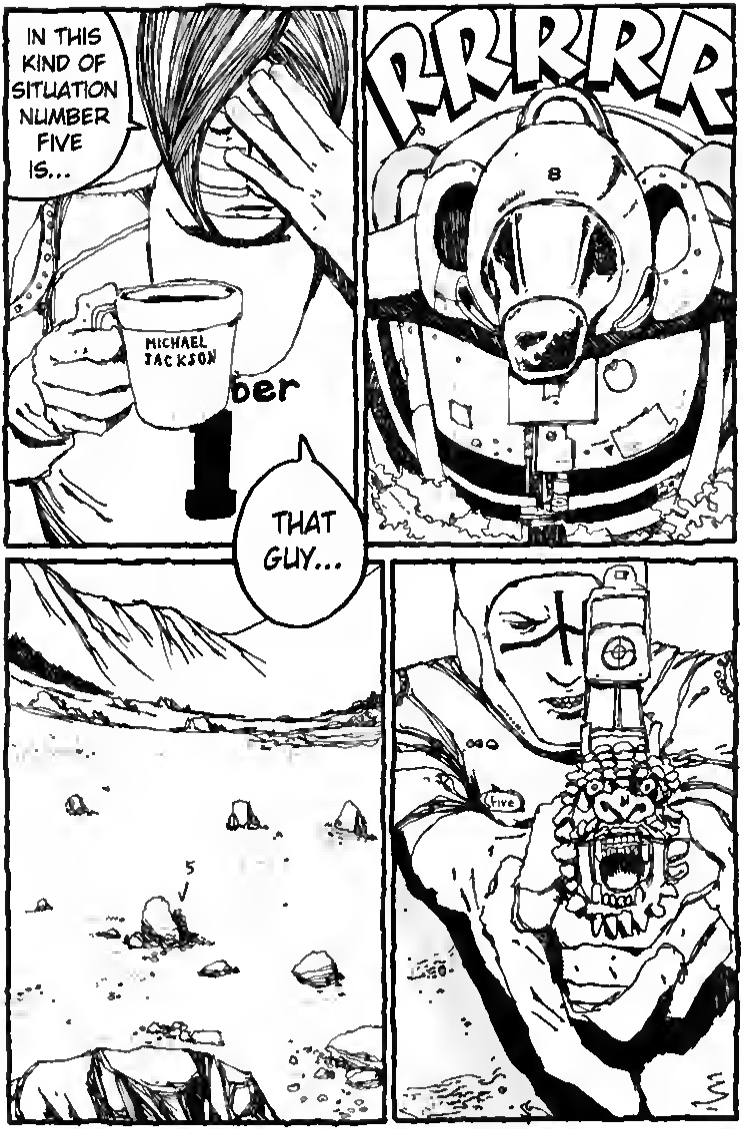
I AM AFRAID OF DYING.
Oooo
FWOM
THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF...
WHAT'S UP, DOMI-NIQUE?
I FEEL IT.
THE CAPTAIN?
?
RRRRRR
?

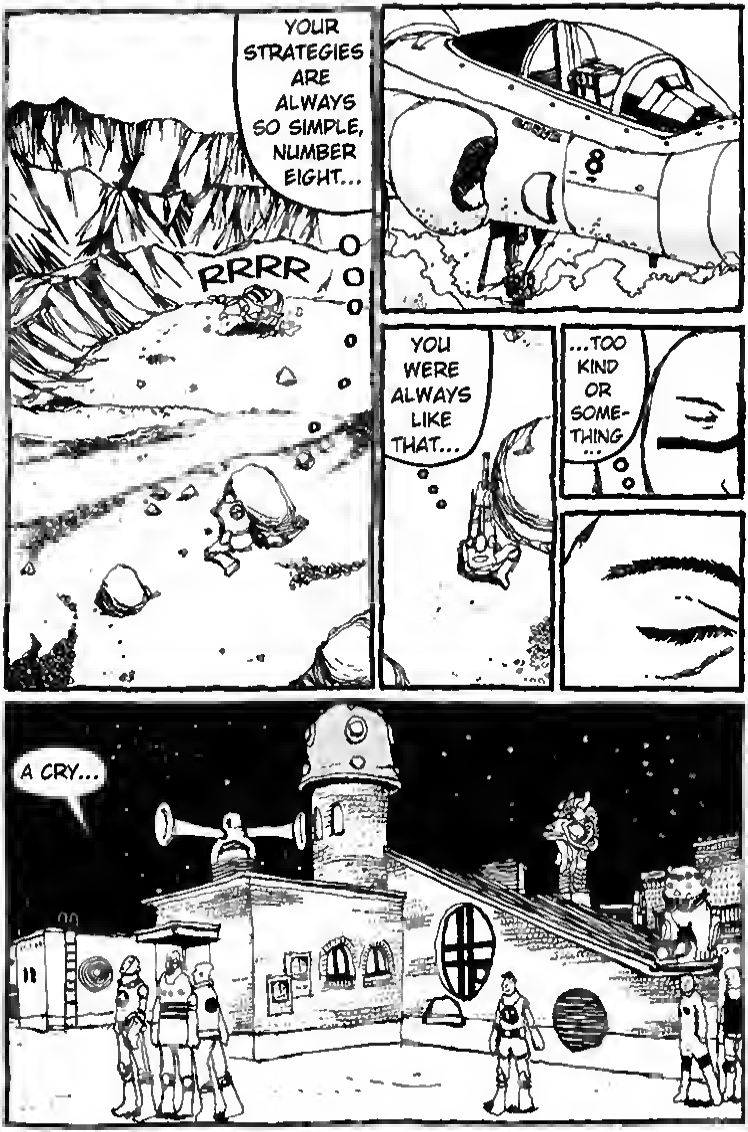

WHIRRRL
BZZZ
BZZZ
WHIRRRL
WHIRRRL

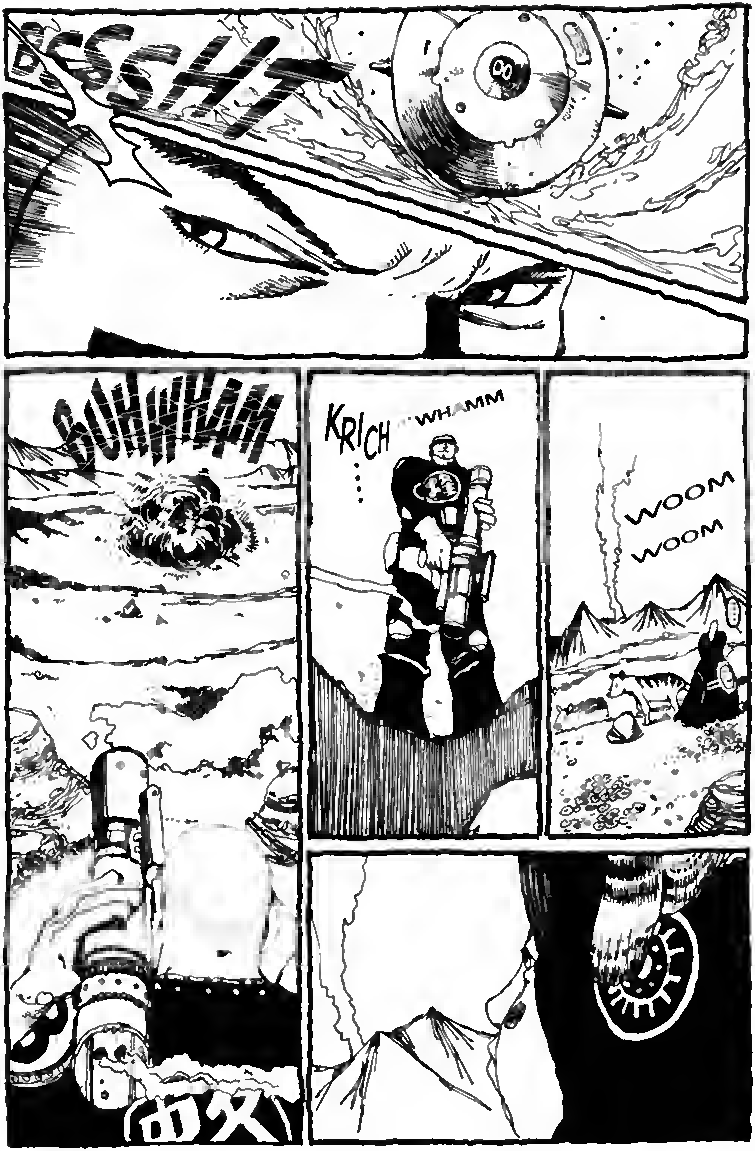

TWHIRRL
AIEEE!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
BZZ BZZ
BZ
(front)
Petals
Stigma
Pistil
Ovary
Ovule
Petals


!
...
SCHNORRR
A DREAM...

NUMBER FIVE JUST WENT INTO COMBAT, PAPA.
YOU MEAN THAT THE TWO HAVE CONTACT?
I CAN'T TELL ...
HOW'S ROBIN (EIGHT), MIKE?
I FEEL GREAT TENSION.
THE EMOTIONS I CAN DETECT MOSTLY COME FROM HIM.
FEAR?
JUST LIKE THE ANGLO-SAXONS BEING ATTACKED BY THE DUKE OF NORMANDY.
AND YURI (FIVE) IS DIFFERENT?
HE IS.
ICHAEL
ACKSON

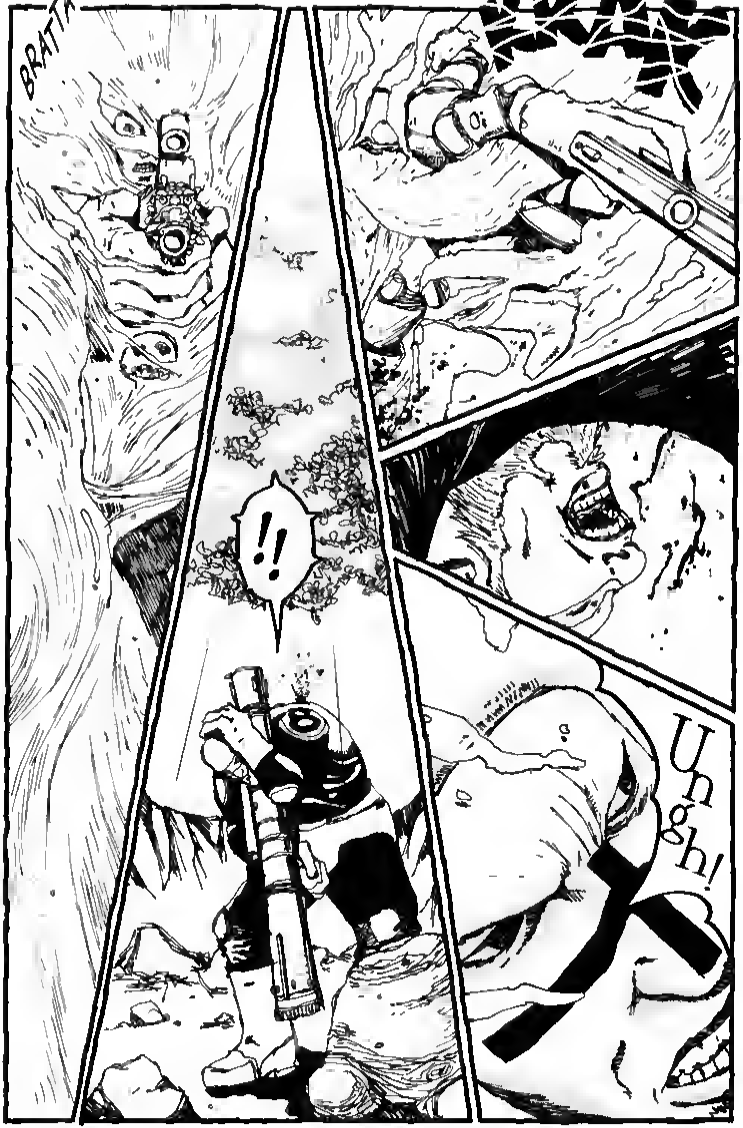

IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION NUMBER FIVE IS...
MICHAEL JACKSON
RRRRR
THAT GUY...
5
five


YOUR STRATEGIES ARE ALWAYS SO SIMPLE, NUMBER EIGHT...
RRRR
8
YOU WERE ALWAYS LIKE THAT...
...TOO KIND OR SOME-THING...
A CRY...

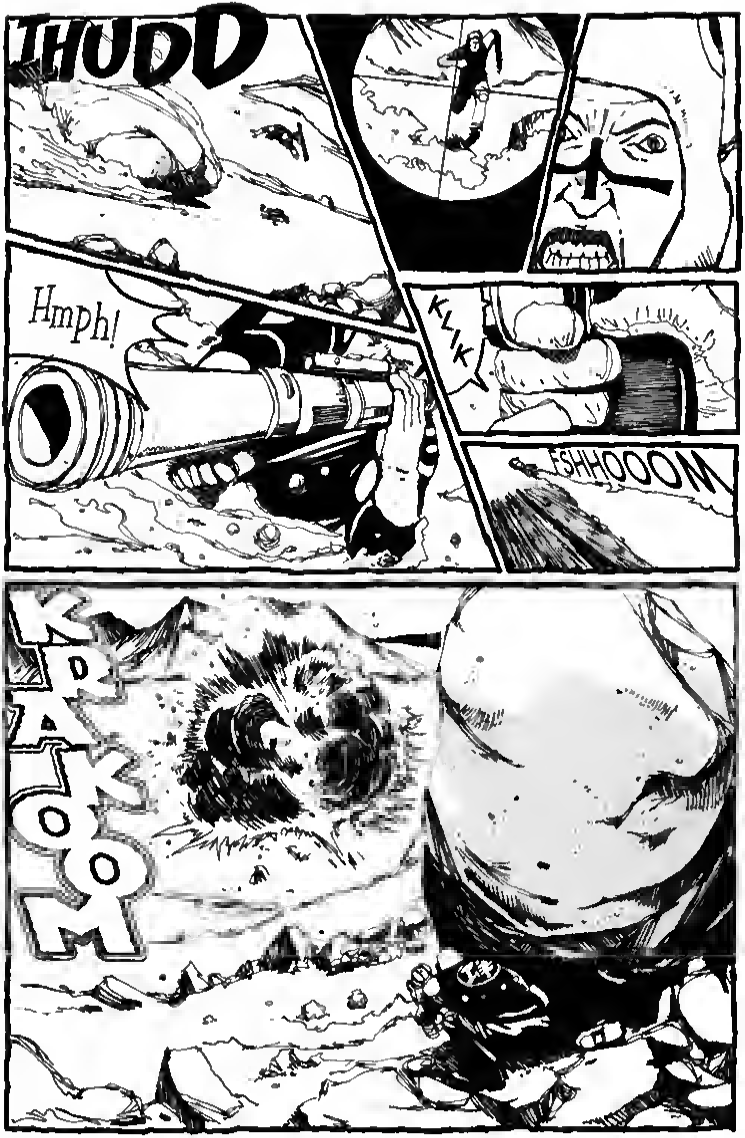

BSSHT
SUHHHAM
KRICH
WHAMM
WOOM
WOOM

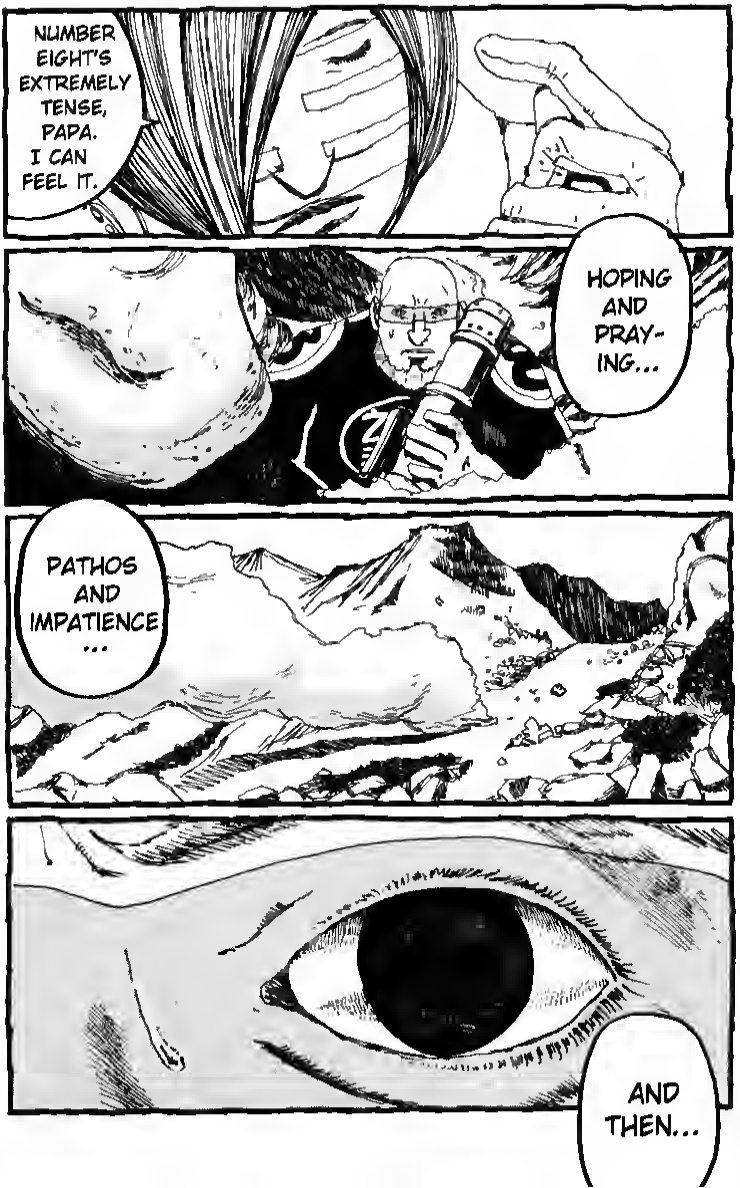
UNGH
KRAK

TAK TAK
BWAM
Urgh!
BRATTA
BLOOD

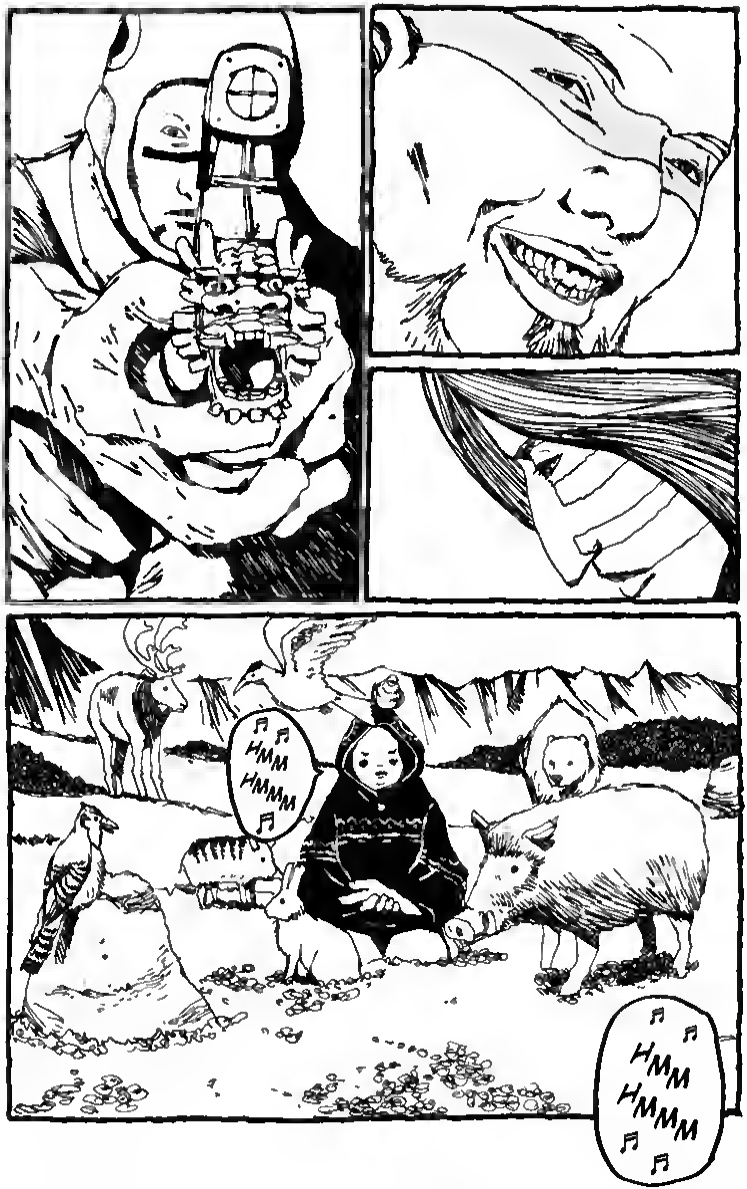

BRATTA
!!
Ungh!

THOK
FWUNK

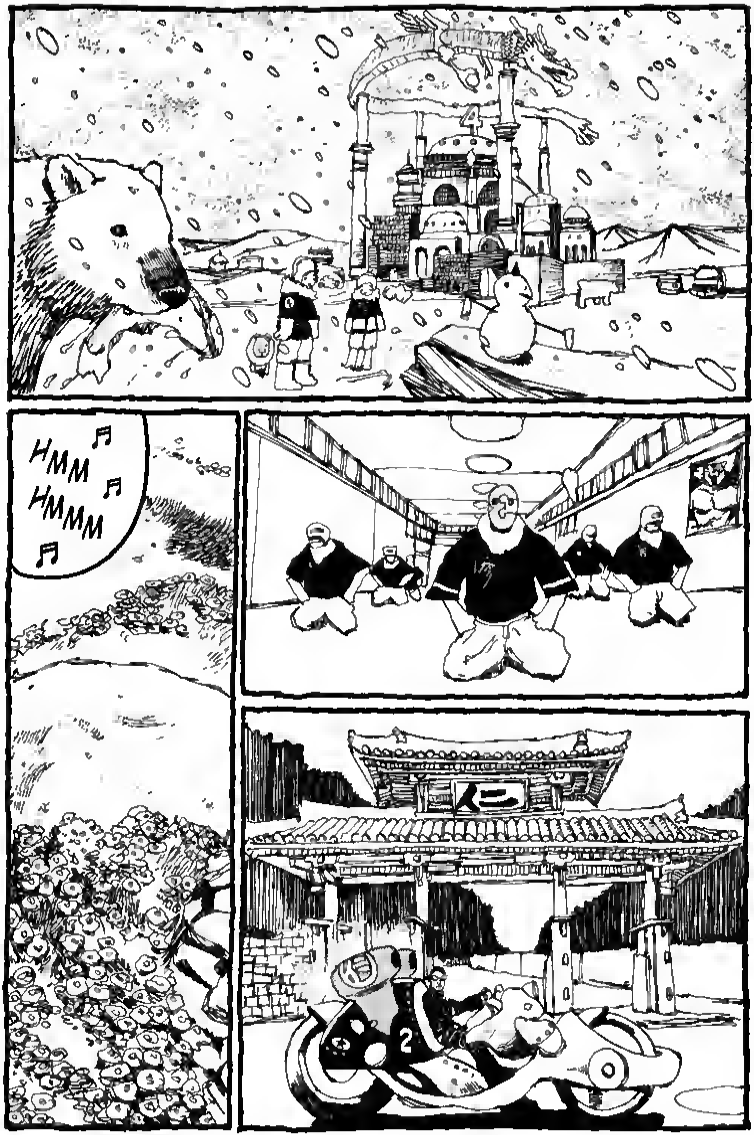

THUDD
Hmph!
KLIK
FSHHOOOM
KRAKOOM

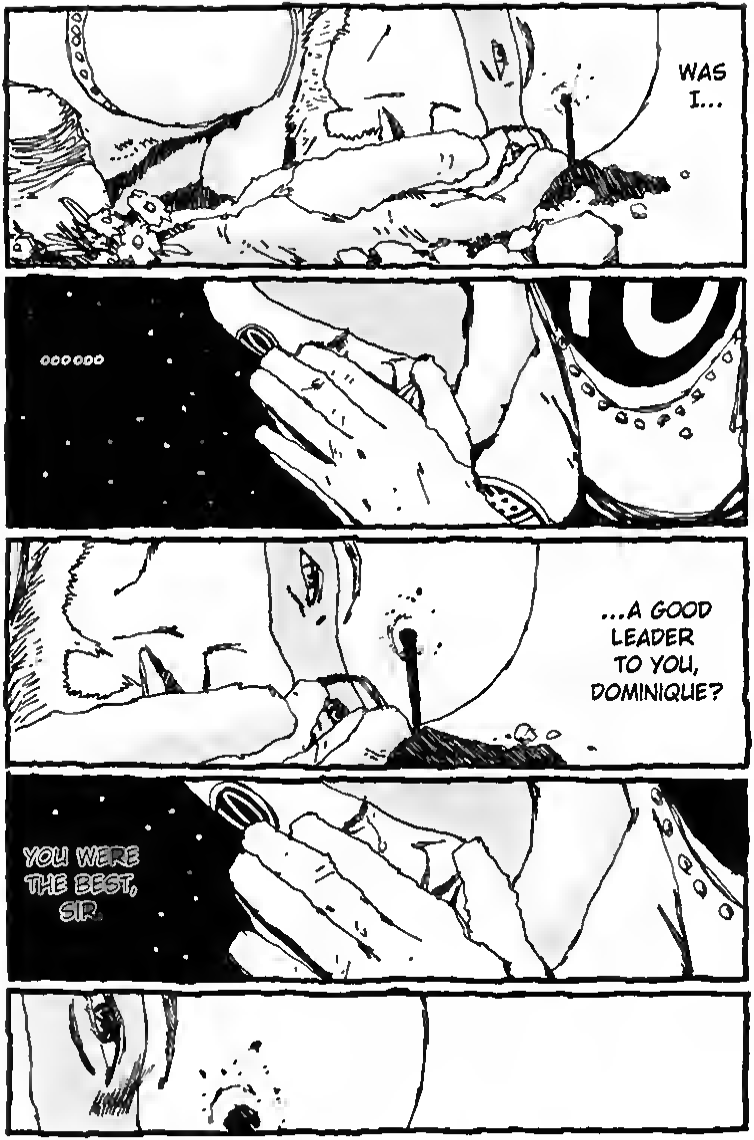

NUMBER EIGHT'S EXTREMELY TENSE, PAPA. I CAN FEEL IT.
HOPING AND PRAY-ING...
PATHOS AND IMPATIENCE ...
AND THEN...

...MISCALCULATION...
KLIK
DESPAIR.


♫ HMM HMMM ♫
♫ ♫ HMM HMMM ♫ ♫

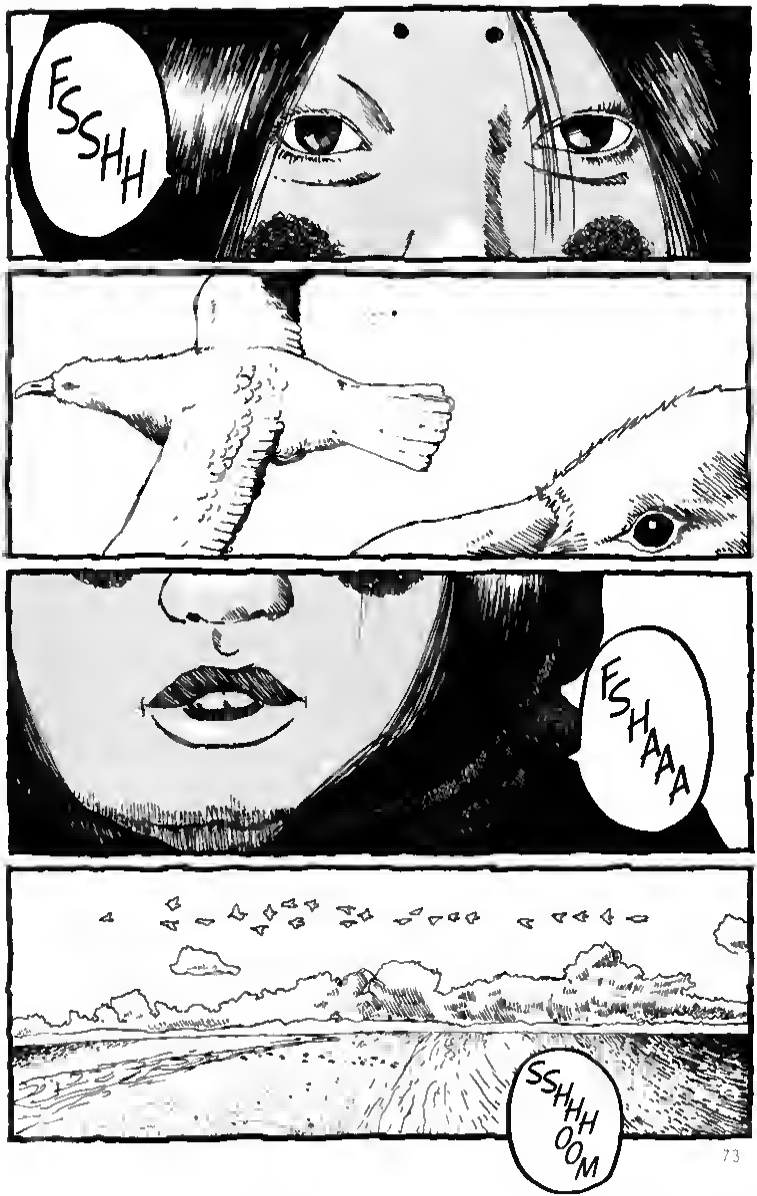
BLAM


HMM
HMMM


WAS I...
OOOOOO
...A GOOD LEADER TO YOU, DOMINIQUE?
YOU WERE THE BEST, SIR.

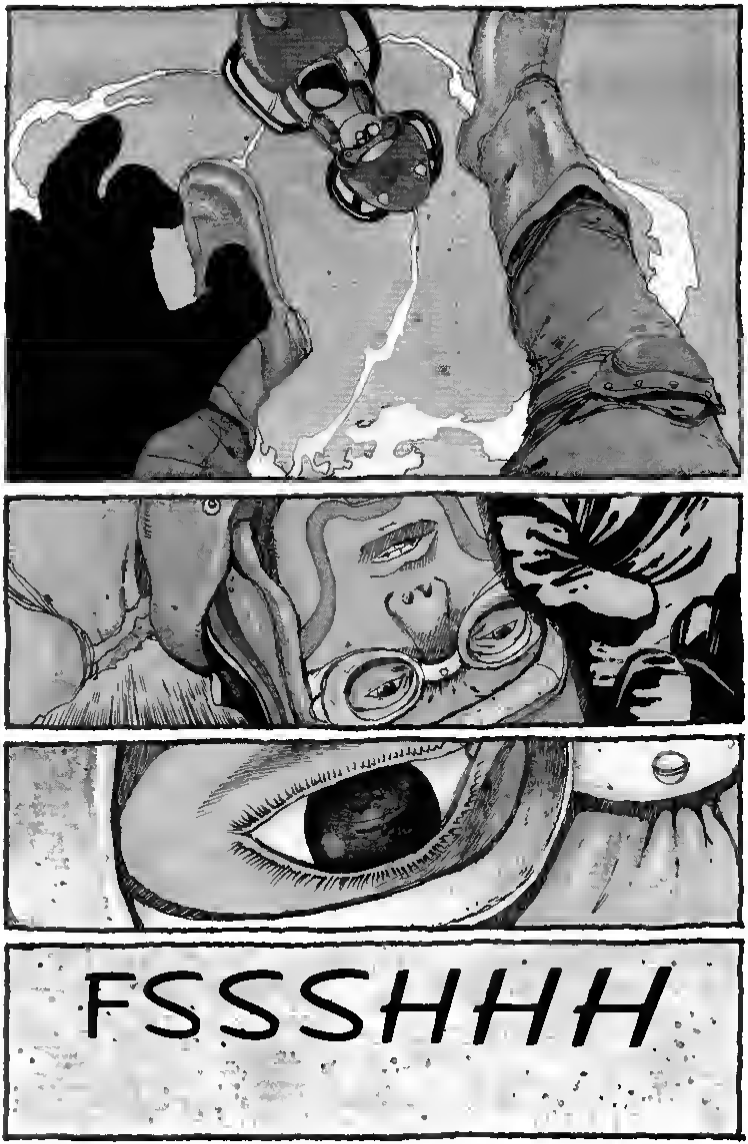
KEE
KEE
KAH
HH

THE SEA!!
HE WAS ADORED BY HIS MEN.
YES, HE WAS.
THE WORLD IS APPROACHING DARKNESS AGAIN.
...
number

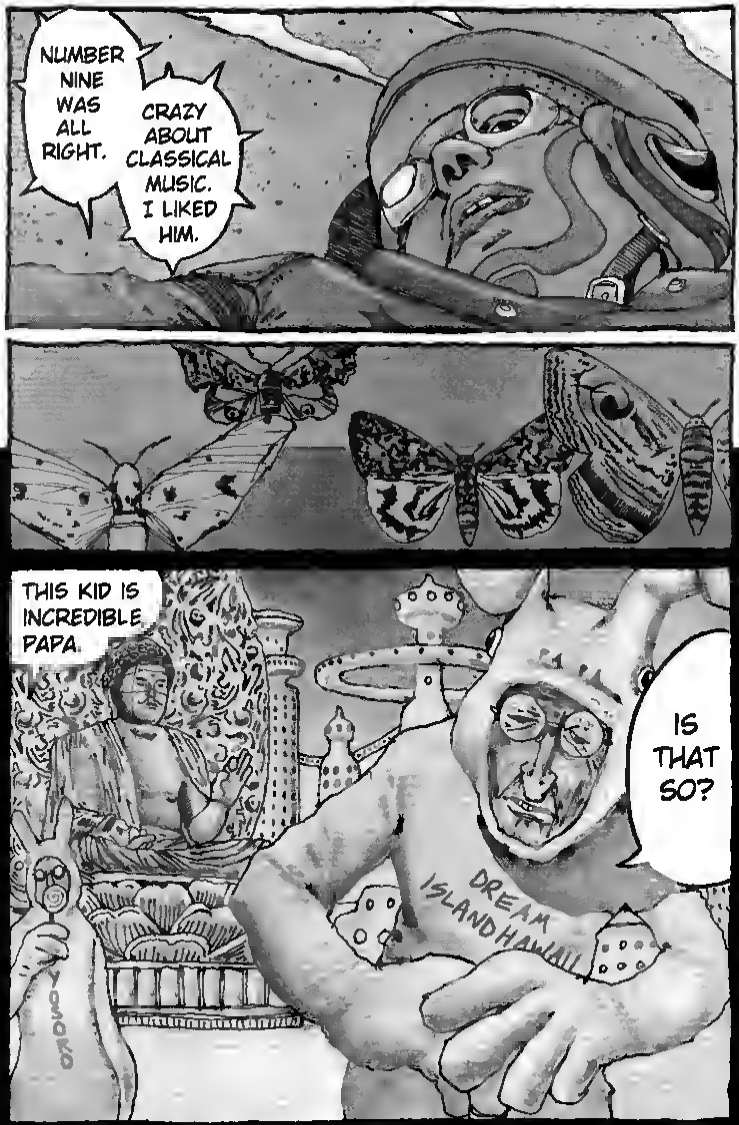

FSSHH
FSHAAA
SSHHH
OOM

BOOM
FSSHH

chapter 3 • cemetery


FSSSHHH

KRICH
SO IT'S NUMBER NINE!
5
SO ONE'S RESORTED TO DISPATCHING MEMBERS OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL.


NUMBER NINE WAS ALL RIGHT.
CRAZY ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC. I LIKED HIM.
THIS KID IS INCREDIBLE PAPA.
IS THAT SO?
DREAM ISLAND HAWAII

HE MIGHT JOIN THE RAINBOW.
THE RAIN-BOW...
REGULATIONS ON MACHINE DEVELOPMENT BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS. PRESERVATION OF WILD ANIMALS.
PROHIBITION OF PRODUCTION AS WELL AS SALES AND PURCHASING OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES.
AND ABOVE ALL, POPULATION CONTROL IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE NEW CONSTI-TUTION.

HA HA HA HA HA.
LIEUTENANT OKUBO. LEAVE YOUR PRESENT LOCATION.
TAKE YOUR TROOP TO RELIEVE THE FIRST BATTALION.
FIRST BATTALION, REPORT YOUR PRESENT LOCATION.
BEER
HA.
ALL RIGHT. NEXT!
THOK

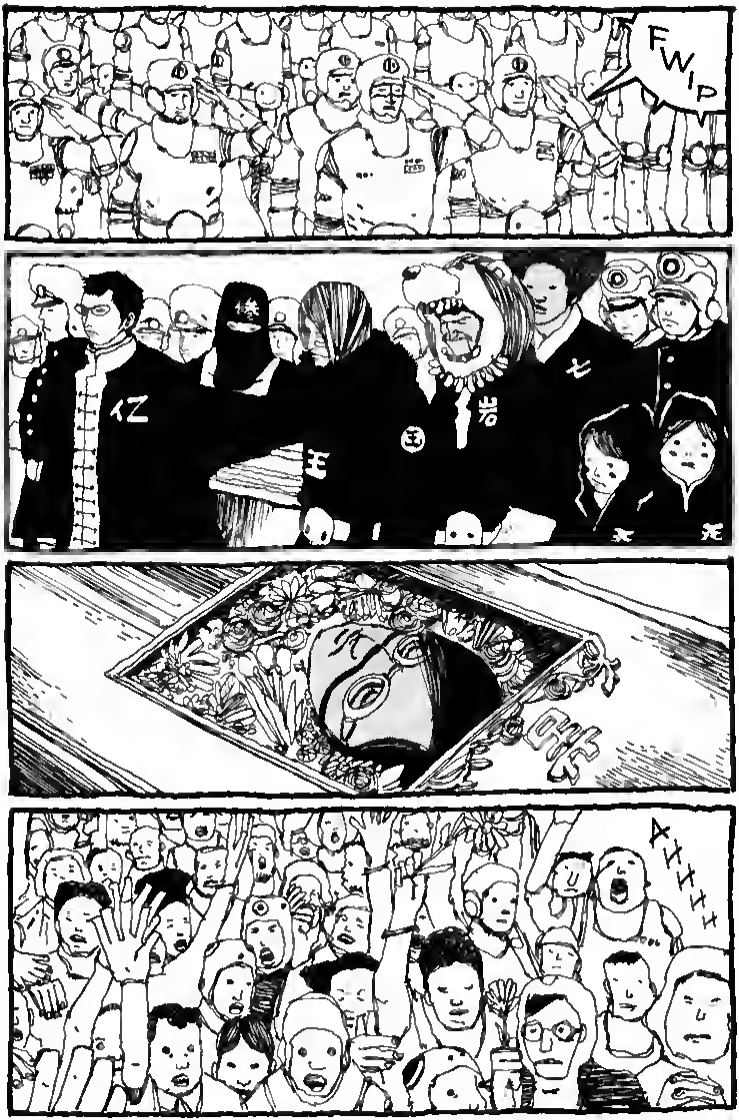
I LOVE HUMANKIND.
BOOM
RAINBOW
THE SEA IS SHINING.
CON-GRATU-LATIONS, HIROSHI.
NOW YOU ARE AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL.
EWOM
EWOM

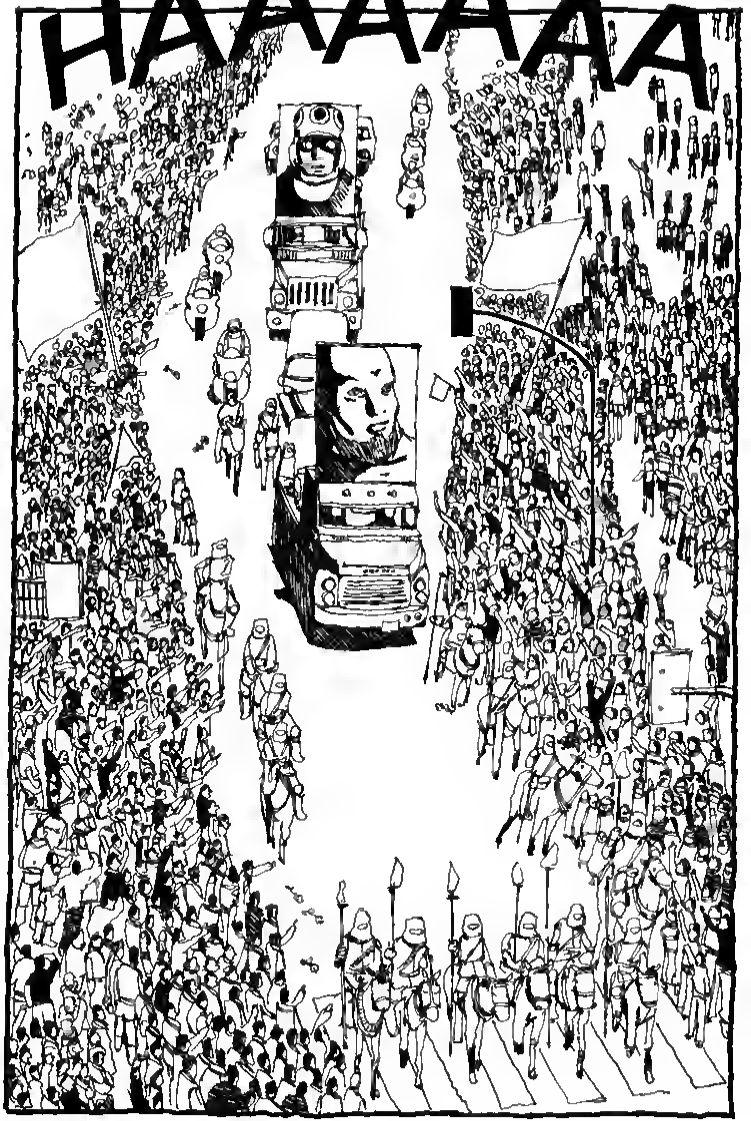
TOO MUCH POTENTIAL CAN BE A WEAKNESS.
IT'S ALL INSIDE YOU.
FIVE RIGHT NOW IS DANGEROUS.
HE BELIEVES CREATION AND DESTRUCTION ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
THREE.
I WILL BECOME ONE WITH ONE AGAIN SOON.
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP
Number Five of the Rainbow Council of the International Peacekeeping Forces has attacked Number Ones castle.
After killing three of Number Ones subordinates.
Number Five reportedly kidnapped a woman and escaped

DON'T DIE, NUMBER NINE!!
EVEN IF YOU DO, DON'T!!
GET RID OF NUMBER FIVE, NUMBER NINE.
VRRRRU
KRRRR

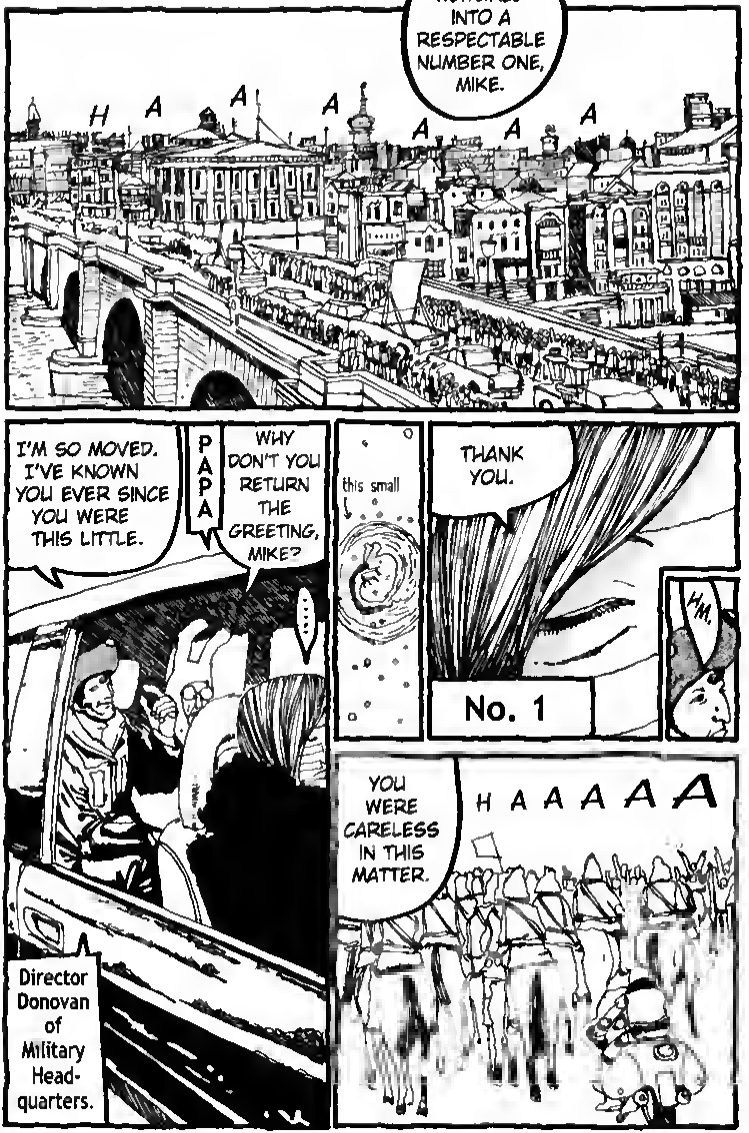
THIS IS BRAHMS' SYM-PHONY NO. 1 IN C MINOR ...
DO YOU LIKE IT?
...

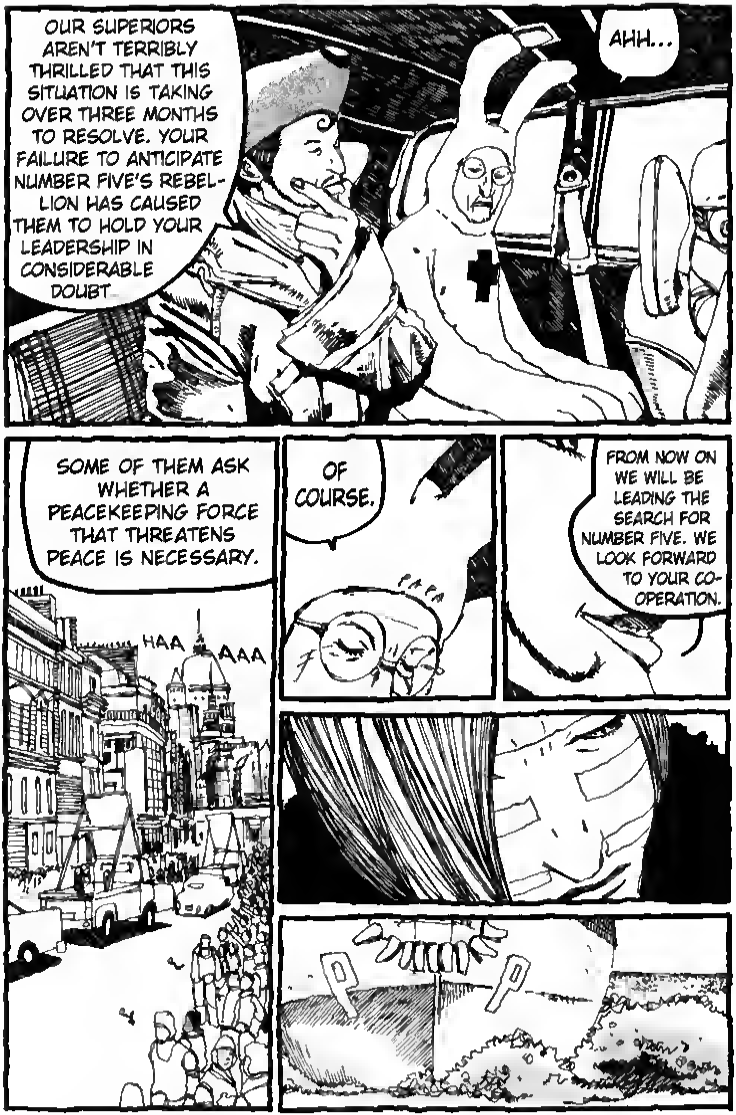
PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
BRAHMS
FSHHH

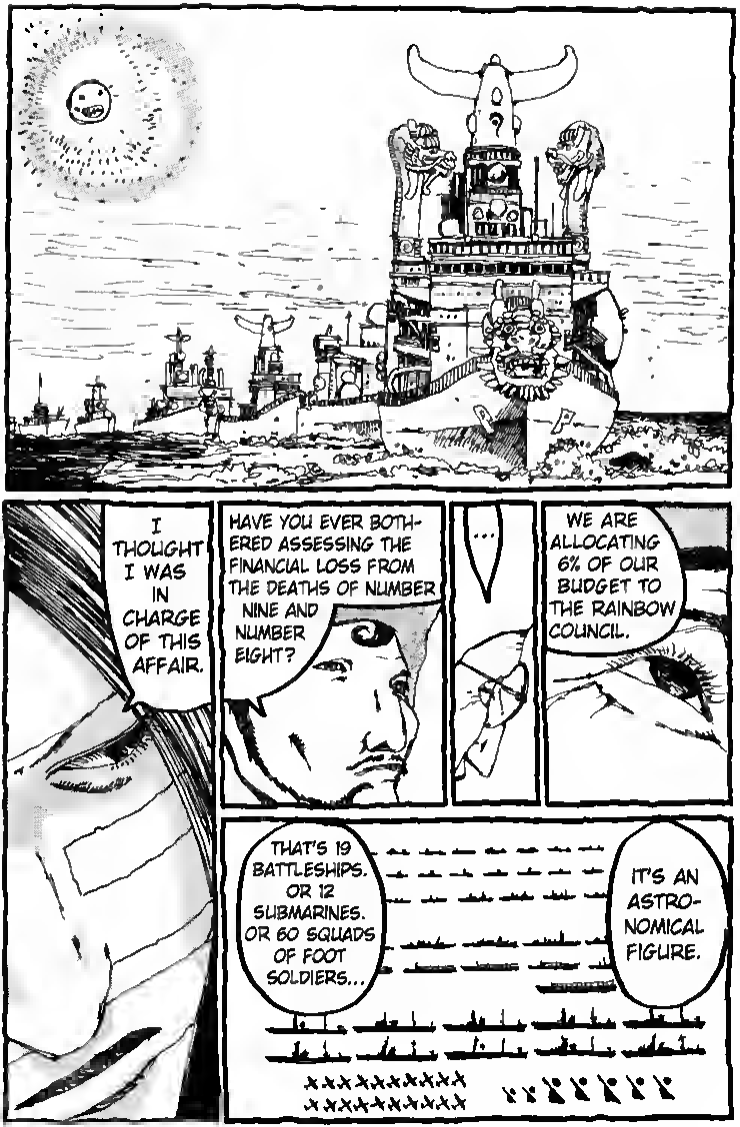

FWIP
AHHHH

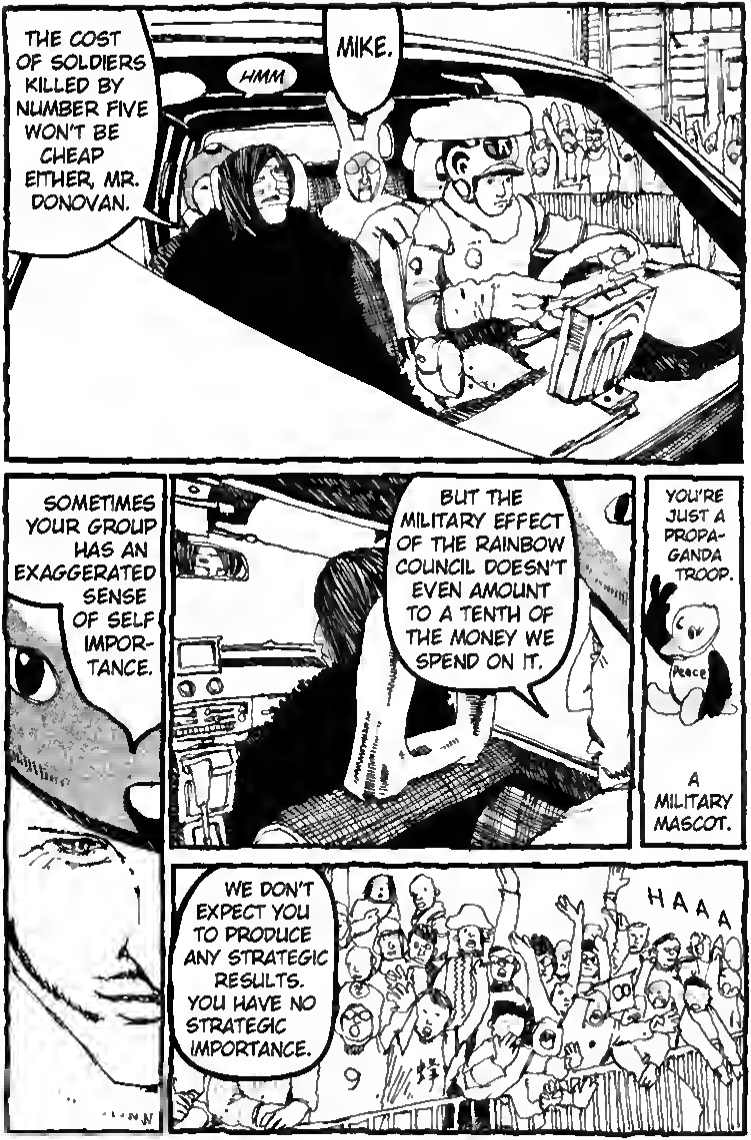

HAAAAAA

The funeral procession is moving forward.
The crowd pressing towards the procession is throwing flowers into the street
KAW
KAW
KAW
The towering memorial placards of Number Eight and Number Nine of the Rainbow Council of the International Peacekeeping Forces are slowly...
No. 5
Matroshka
CHOMP
...passing by.


YOU'VE MATURED INTO A RESPECTABLE NUMBER ONE, MIKE.
H A A A A A A
I'M SO MOVED. I'VE KNOWN YOU EVER SINCE YOU WERE THIS LITTLE.
PAPA
WHY DON'T YOU RETURN THE GREETING, MIKE?
Director Donovan of Military Headquarters.
this small
THANK YOU.
No. 1
HM.
YOU WERE CARELESS IN THIS MATTER.
H A A A A A

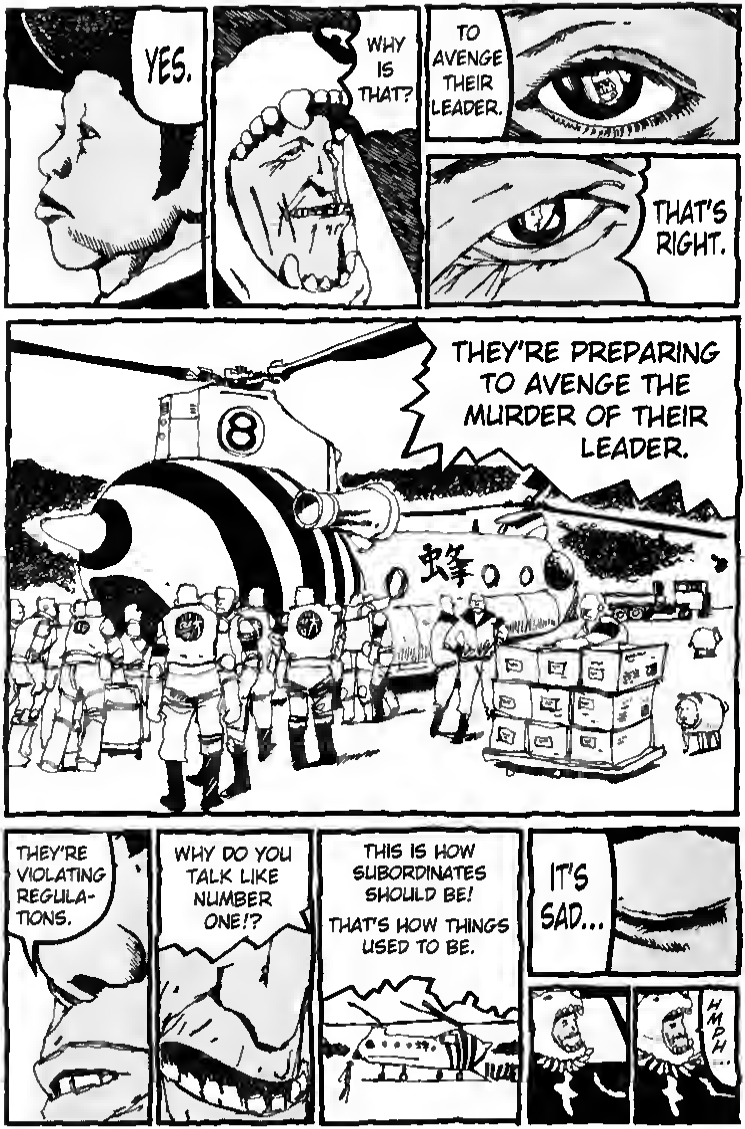

OUR SUPERIORS AREN'T TERRIBLY THRILLED THAT THIS SITUATION IS TAKING OVER THREE MONTHS TO RESOLVE. YOUR FAILURE TO ANTICIPATE NUMBER FIVE'S REBELLION HAS CAUSED THEM TO HOLD YOUR LEADERSHIP IN CONSIDERABLE DOUBT.
AHH...
SOME OF THEM ASK WHETHER A PEACEKEEPING FORCE THAT THREATENS PEACE IS NECESSARY.
HAA AAA
OF COURSE.
PAPA
FROM NOW ON WE WILL BE LEADING THE SEARCH FOR NUMBER FIVE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CO-OPERATION.
PUUUUU P P


I THOUGHT I WAS IN CHARGE OF THIS AFFAIR.
HAVE YOU EVER BOTHERED ASSESSING THE FINANCIAL LOSS FROM THE DEATHS OF NUMBER NINE AND NUMBER EIGHT?
...
WE ARE ALLOCATING 6% OF OUR BUDGET TO THE RAINBOW COUNCIL.
THAT'S 19 BATTLESHIPS. OR 12 SUBMARINES. OR 60 SQUADS OF FOOT SOLDIERS...
IT'S AN ASTRONOMICAL FIGURE.


THE COST OF SOLDIERS KILLED BY NUMBER FIVE WON'T BE CHEAP EITHER, MR. DONOVAN.
HMM
MIKE.
SOMETIMES YOUR GROUP HAS AN EXAGGERATED SENSE OF SELF IMPORTANCE.
BUT THE MILITARY EFFECT OF THE RAINBOW COUNCIL DOESN'T EVEN AMOUNT TO A TENTH OF THE MONEY WE SPEND ON IT.
YOU'RE JUST A PROPAGANDA TROOP.
Peace
A MILITARY MASCOT.
WE DON'T EXPECT YOU TO PRODUCE ANY STRATEGIC RESULTS. YOU HAVE NO STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE.
HAAA
9

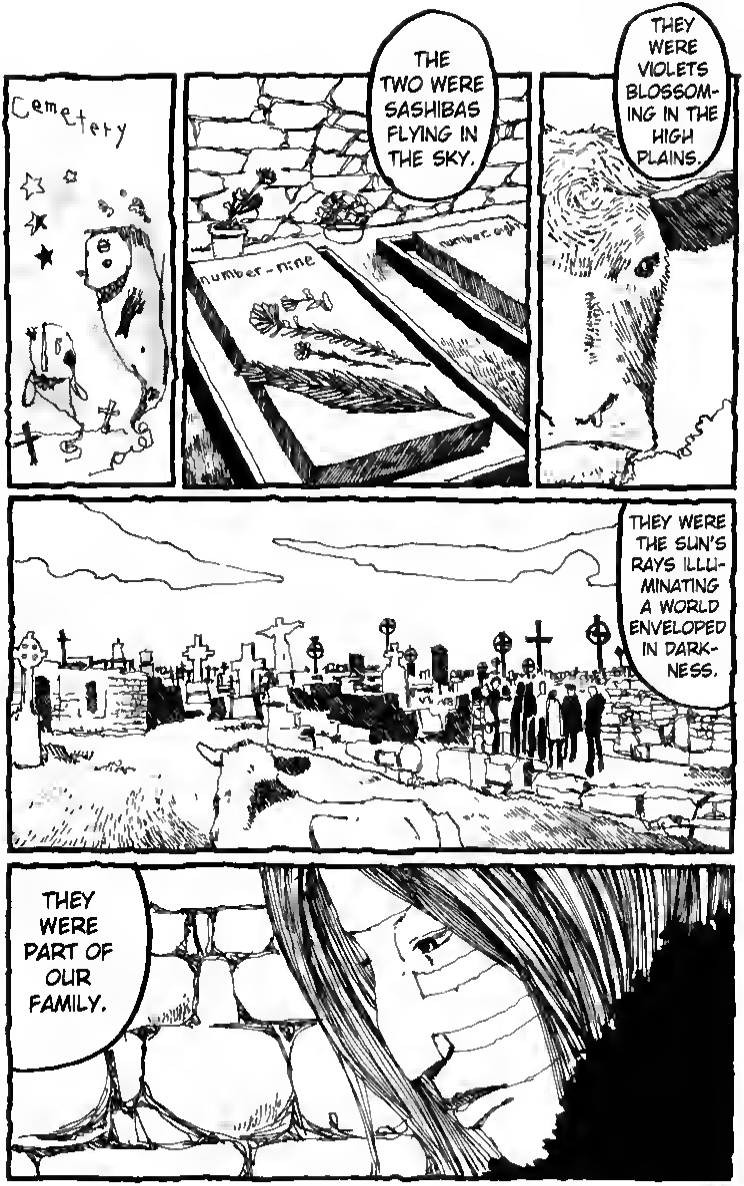
I FEEL NUMBER ONE'S ...
No. 3
...REALLY ANGRY.
No. 4
WELL, HE'S NOT VERY SOPHISTI-CATED.
No. 2
HE'S GET-TING ALL WORKED UP OVER BABY DONOVAN'S PROVO-CATIONS.
NUMBER SEVEN'S DISTURBED DEEPLY TOO.
YEAH...
HEY, IT'S REALLY HOT, NUMBER THREE. MIND IF WE ROLL DOWN THE WINDOW?
GO AHEAD ...
HE'S SO KIND.

FEH
HAAAA
UNCHAIN
NUMBER FOUR'S WAVING TOWARD THE CROWD.
THIS IS A FUNERAL.
No. 6
HA HA...
...
YOU MUST HAVE NOTICED.
No. 7
DOMINIQUE AND THE OTHER SUBORDINATES OF NUMBER EIGHT HAVE ALL LEFT THE FUNERAL PROCESSION

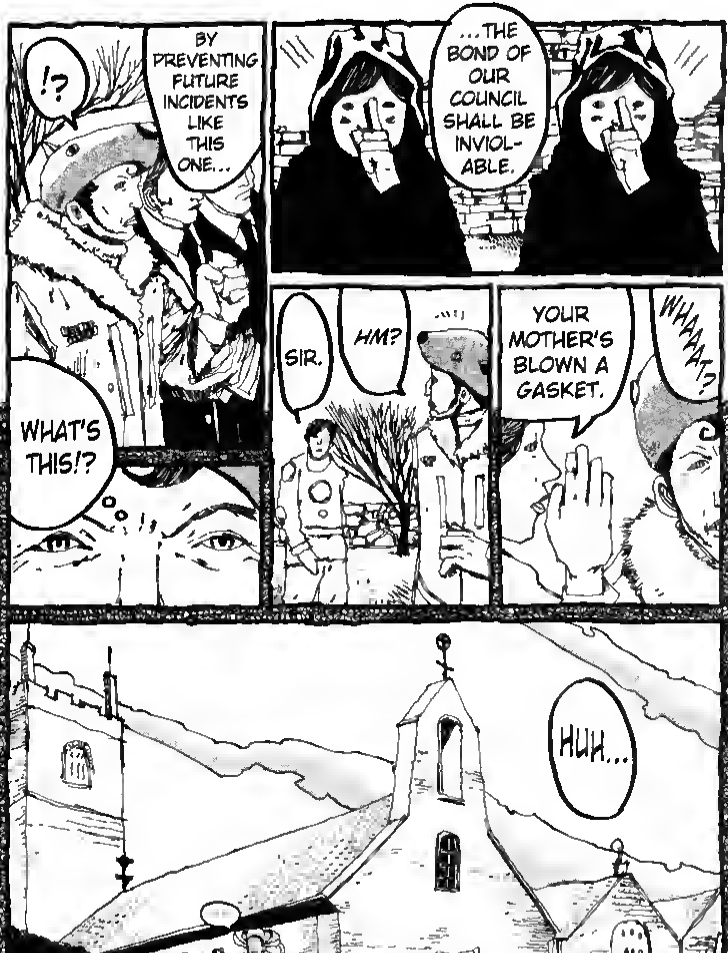

YES.
WHY IS THAT?
TO AVENGE THEIR LEADER.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY'RE PREPARING TO AVENGE THE MURDER OF THEIR LEADER.
THEY'RE VIOLATING REGULATIONS.
WHY DO YOU TALK LIKE NUMBER ONE!?
THIS IS HOW SUBORDINATES SHOULD BE!
THAT'S HOW THINGS USED TO BE.
IT'S SAD...
HMPH...

HAAAAA
WE DON'T SEE EYE TO EYE...
YOU EAT LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO CONSUME THE WHOLE WORLD.
CHOMP
KAW
KAW

AS IF THE WHOLE PLANET EXISTS FOR YOUR CONSUMPTION.
KRAK.
ARRGH.
THESE BIRDS!
KAW KAW
RRRRRRRRR


Cemetery
THE TWO WERE SASHIBAS FLYING IN THE SKY.
number-one
number-nine
THEY WERE VIOLETS BLOSSOMING IN THE HIGH PLAINS.
THEY WERE THE SUN'S RAYS ILLUMINATING A WORLD ENVELOPED IN DARKNESS.
THEY WERE PART OF OUR FAMILY.

?!
WE WILL NOT FORGIVE NUMBER FIVE FOR TAKING AWAY OUR BRIGHT STARS.
NO ONE ELSE BESIDES THE RAINBOW COUNCIL...
...WILL GET HIM.
...
Yawwwn.
IN MEMORY OF THESE TWO MEN.
...AND FOR OUR PEOPLE, WHOSE TRUST WE MUST REGAIN.
...
...


!?
BY PREVENTING FUTURE INCIDENTS LIKE THIS ONE...
WHAT'S THIS!?
...THE BOND OF OUR COUNCIL SHALL BE INVIOL-ABLE.
SIR.
HM?
YOUR MOTHER'S BLOWN A GASKET.
WHAAAT?
HUH...

MAMA...?
A SCARY HAIRY THING IS COMING OUT OF THE WATER, DOMINIQUE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY, MAMA?
Arf.
HEY.
PELL!! PELL CAME BACK, MAMA.
Arf.
Arf.
Arf.

Arf.
Arf.
HE'S A RARE ROBO BIRD DOG MADE FROM A GERMANIUM TRANSISTOR THAT WAS OUTLAWED BY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATION.
I'M SORRY, MAMA!
Arf
Arf
Arf
WHEN WILL YOU GROW UP AND FORGET ABOUT YOUR TOYS TOYS TOYS TOYS!?
THWK
THWK
HUH...
YOU LITTLE ...
WHEN WILL YOU GROW UP!?
IT HURTS
IT HURTS...
SIR.
SIR!
!!

FSSHH
HUMPH...
URR.
YAWWWN
BAH.
WE'RE LEAVING.
HUH? OH..YES SIR.
HEY, GO GET THE CAR.

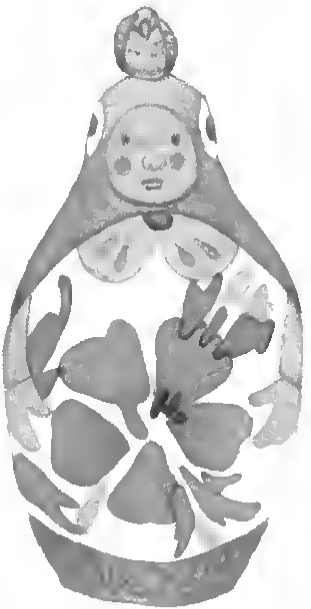
THE SETTING SUN IS BURNING...
THE MONSTERS...
THIS SIGHT ALWAYS MAKES ME WANT TO CRY.

We have an emergency report.
RRRRRRRR
Beginning tomorrow the military will officially commence its search for Number Five.
We have no accurate figures on the number of staff employed but the Patt VI tanks have been mobilized.
KLAK KLAK KLAK
A quick resolution to the affair is expected.
TUM

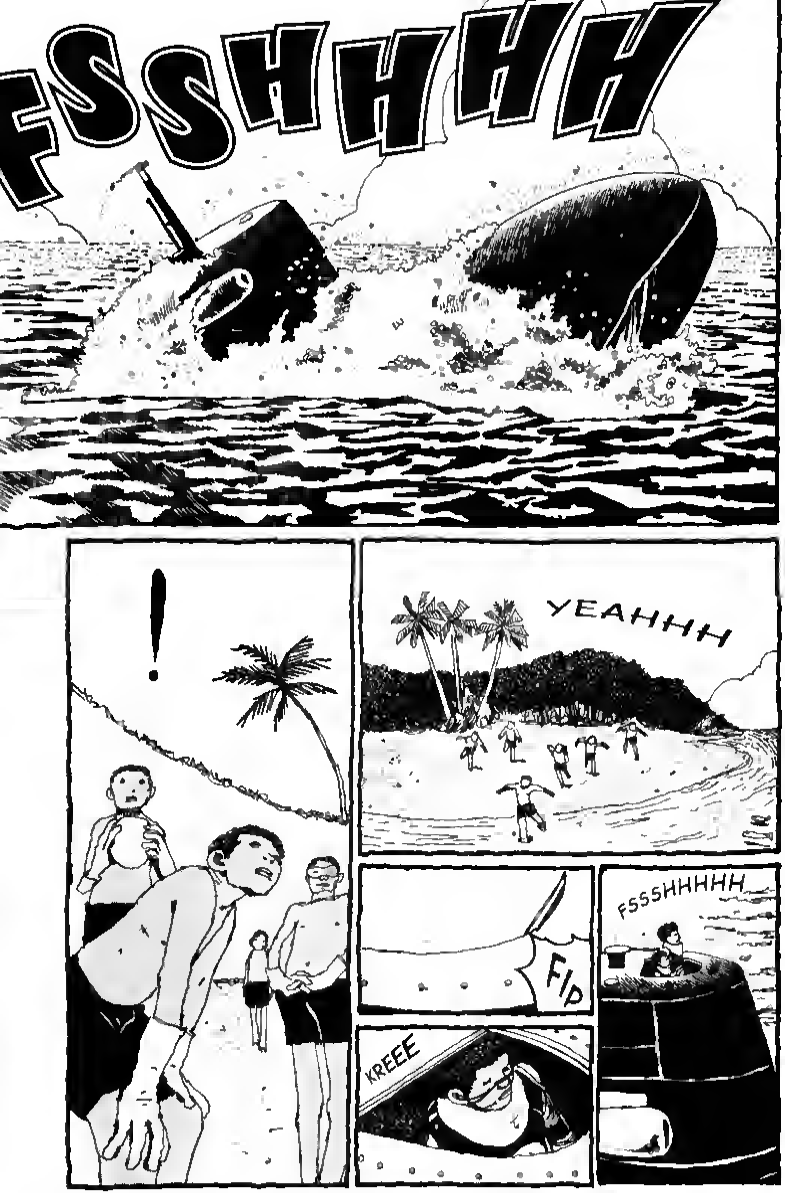
TUM
TA
Also, several subordinates of Number Eight, whose funeral was held today, are reported missing.
It appears they are also searching for Number Five, who was responsible for their leader's death.
FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP FWIP

Three months have passed since Number Fives escape.

chapter 4 • restaurant

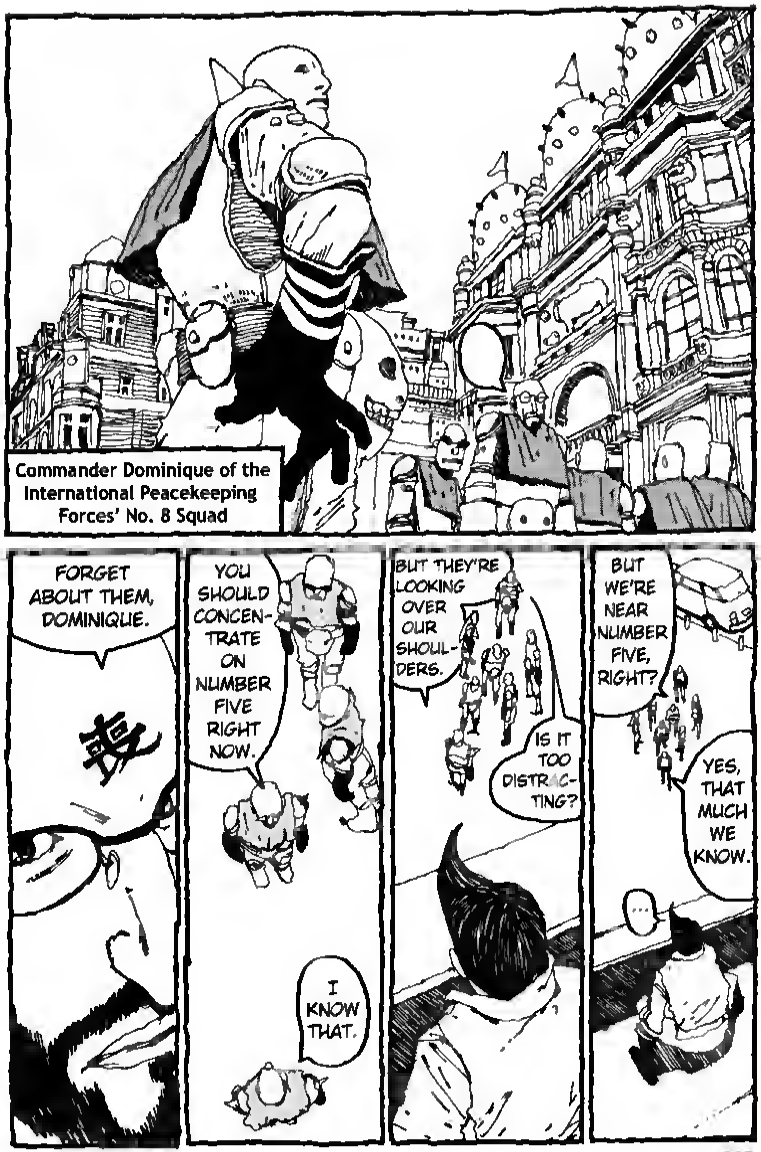


The boss of the organization issues an order to
Kill him
pigeon
The man who betrayed the organization
The sun was shining
THE PLOT
NO 1
NO 5
The man takes the woman and escapes
The woman he fell for
dog
lizard
BLAMM
BLAMM
Both died
NO 9
Yes
PAPA
The genius scientist
Hmm
Do my best
NO 8
lionsheep
dragon
cat
The water was clear
The wind was blowing
So I am next
The Troubled Man
NO 7
NO 3
NO 6
the earth was round
NO 2
NO 4
VVEEN
Go!
The sun was shining
The organization was faltering


FSSHHHH
!
YEAHHH
FIP
KREEE
FSSSHHHHH

FSHH
RRRR
THIS PLACE DOESN'T CHANGE, MR. SEVEN.
EH?
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE PARADISE.
0 Knots. Course 2-2-0. Prepare for docking!!
HMM...
No. 7: Rainbow Council member of the International Peacekeeping Forces

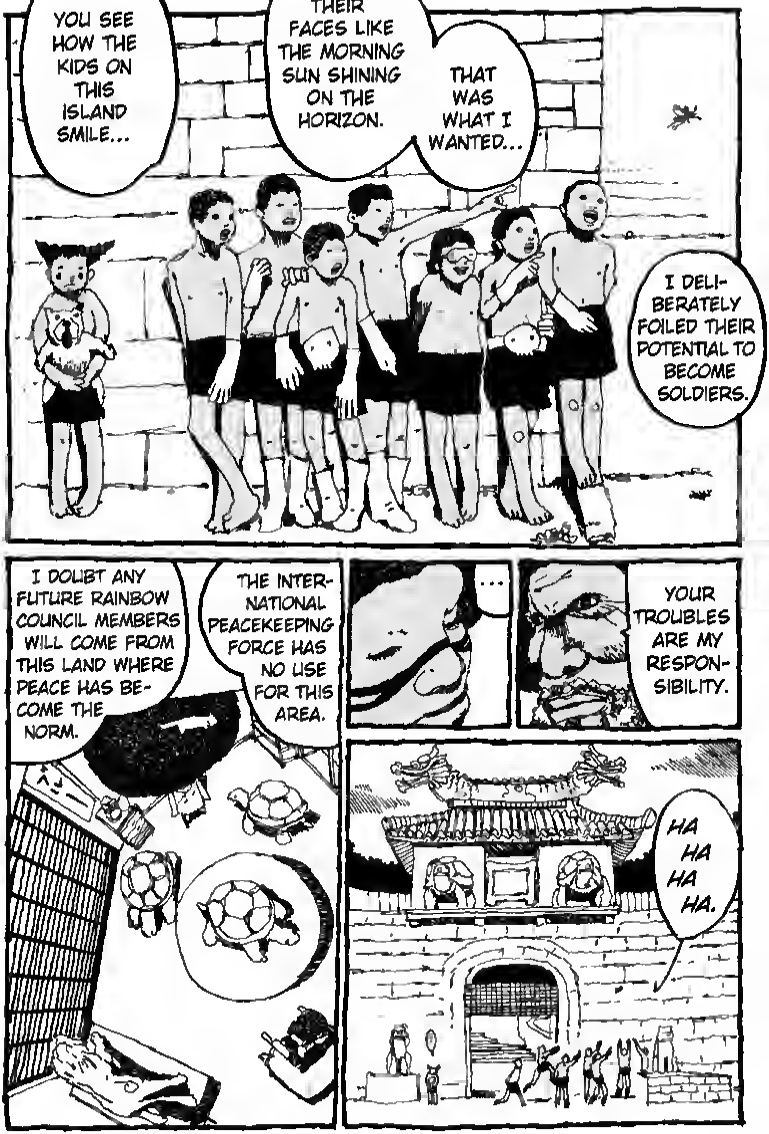
KAW KAW KAW
IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, SIR.
GOOD TO SEE YOU, OMAR (7).
OUT OF THE WAY, BRATS.
LET'S GO.
THE CHIEF IS EXPECTING YOU.


Commander Dominique of the International Peacekeeping Forces' No. 8 Squad
FORGET ABOUT THEM, DOMINIQUE.
YOU SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON NUMBER FIVE RIGHT NOW.
I KNOW THAT.
BUT THEY'RE LOOKING OVER OUR SHOULDERS.
IS IT TOO DISTRACTING?
BUT WE'RE NEAR NUMBER FIVE, RIGHT?
YES, THAT MUCH WE KNOW.
...

HE IS NEAR HERE.
BAH...
YOU WERE IN MY DREAM, OMAR (7).
Meow

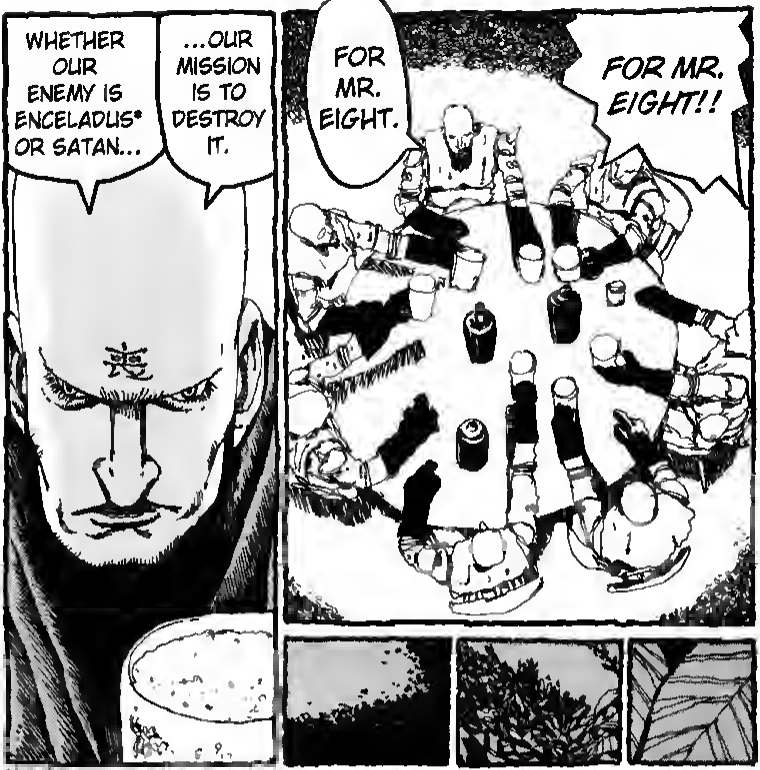
HAVE A SEAT.
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED AFTER SUCH A LONG VOYAGE
Chief
THANK YOU, SIR.
KRICH
IN THE DREAM YOU LOST TRACK OF THE TRUTH, DROWNING IN A SWAMP OF CONFUSION
!?
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW YOUR HEART, THAT IS ALL.

IF YOU CANNOT SEE THE SENSE IN BATTLE THEN YOU SHOULD AVOID IT.
Meow
BUT IF I DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST NUMBER FIVE...
...THIS VILLAGE WILL BECOME DESPISED BY THE REST OF THE WORLD.
YES, PERHAPS.
THIS LAND WILL SOON BE RULED BY NUMBER ONE'S SUBORDINATES.
...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.
IN THE NEAR FUTURE, PAPA WILL NO LONGER ASSIGN THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES TO THIS AREA, OMAR.
BZZZ


YOU SEE HOW THE KIDS ON THIS ISLAND SMILE...
THEIR FACES LIKE THE MORNING SUN SHINING ON THE HORIZON.
THAT WAS WHAT I WANTED...
I DELIBERATELY FOILED THEIR POTENTIAL TO BECOME SOLDIERS.
I DOUBT ANY FUTURE RAINBOW COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL COME FROM THIS LAND WHERE PEACE HAS BECOME THE NORM.
THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCE HAS NO USE FOR THIS AREA.
...
YOUR TROUBLES ARE MY RESPONSIBILITY.
HA HA HA HA.

THIS IS REDNOSE.
VERY WELL THEN, STAND BY.
E.S.H.
ROGER.
WHAT?
THE PEACE-KEEPING FORCE WON'T LEAVE HERE.
DOM!-NIQUE'S SQUAD APPEARS TO BE RESTING IN THIS TOWN
IS THAT WHERE NUMBER FIVE IS TOO?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?

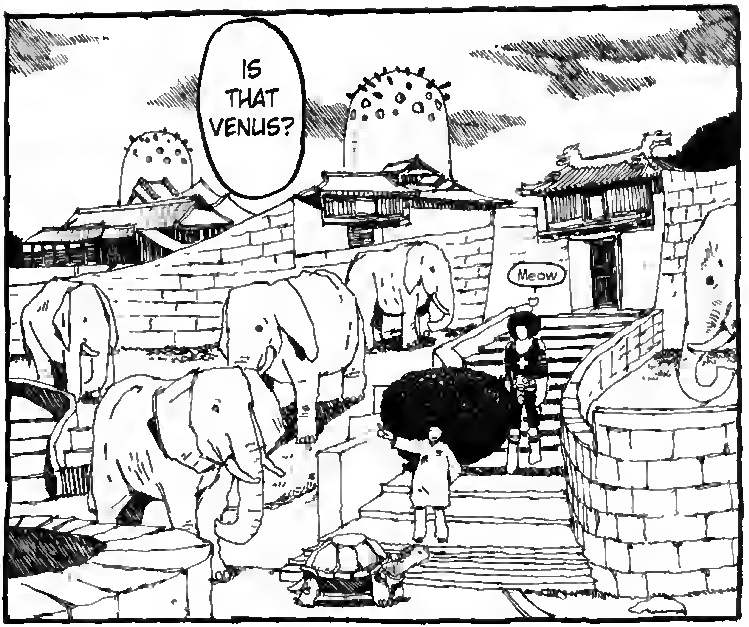
IT'S STILL NOON.
THAT'S STRANGE.
ZING ZING
DO YOU THINK NUMBER FIVE'S AROUND?
HMM.
HOW COME THEY CAN SO EASILY FIND OUT WHERE NUMBER FIVE IS?
I HEAR THEY HAVE TELE-PATHY.
YEAH, RIGHT.
YOU NEVER KNOW.
CLAY WRA
ZIP
THEY'RE NOT LIKE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS...
ASSEMBLE!!
WE WILL BE HEADING TOWARD THE TOWN OF NEMA.
ASSEMBLE!!


WHETHER OUR ENEMY IS ENCELADUS* OR SATAN...
...OUR MISSION IS TO DESTROY IT.
FOR MR. EIGHT.
FOR MR. EIGHT!!

*A giant

No.1 of the
Rainbow Council
of the International
Peacekeeping Forces

IS IT NUMBER FIVE?
UH...
YES, SIR.
NUMBER EIGHT'S MEN ARE APPROACHING HIM.
HA HA, I SEE.
I REMEMBER HOW I WOULD GET EXCITED IN JUST THE SAME WAY WHEN I WAS A RAINBOW COUNCIL MEMBER...
NOW I'M SERENE AS THE CALM SEA.
Tp
?
HA HA ...
MUMU SAYS HE LIKES YOUR HEAD BETTER THAN THIS OLD MAN'S.
YOU LOOK AFTER HIM FROM NOW ON.
Meow
...


IS THAT VENUS?
Meow

!?!

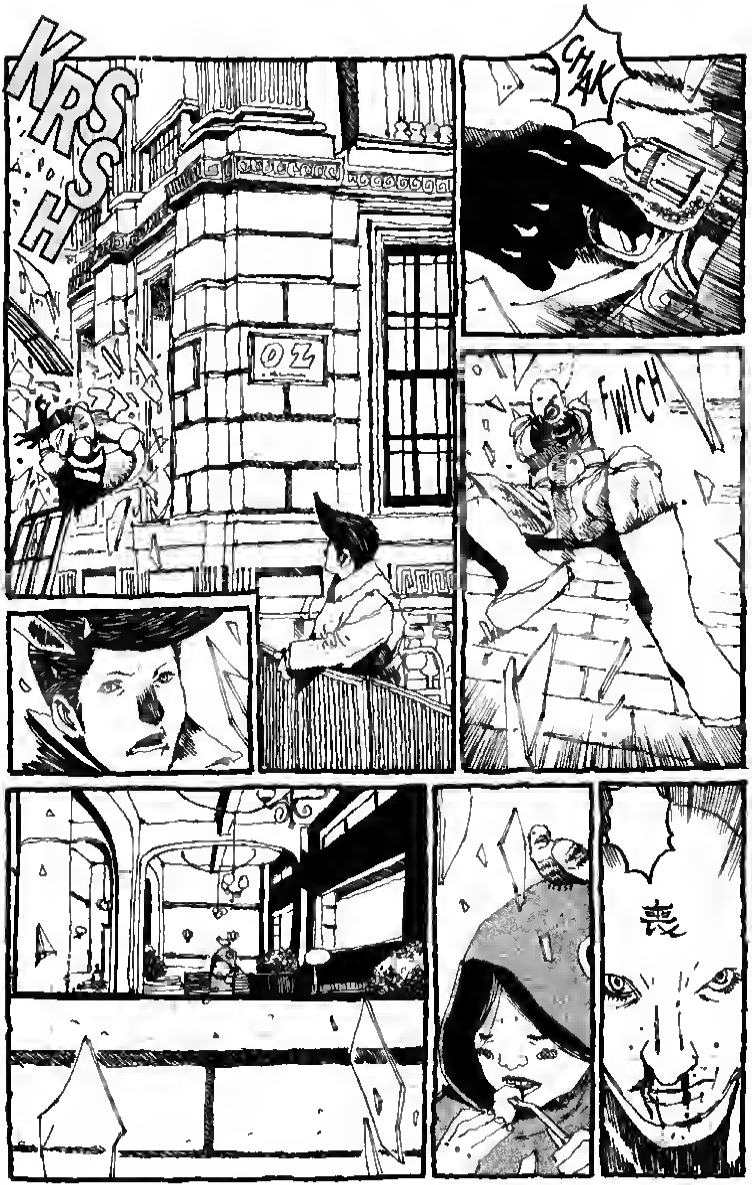
WHO IS IT!?
SOME-ONE IS...
... TRYING TO SEND ...
... SOME MES-SAGE TO ME ...
BAH...
?
IT'S STRONG... SOMEONE THIS STRONG...
WHAT'S WRONG, DOMINI-QUE?
IS IT NUM-BER FIVE?
NO.

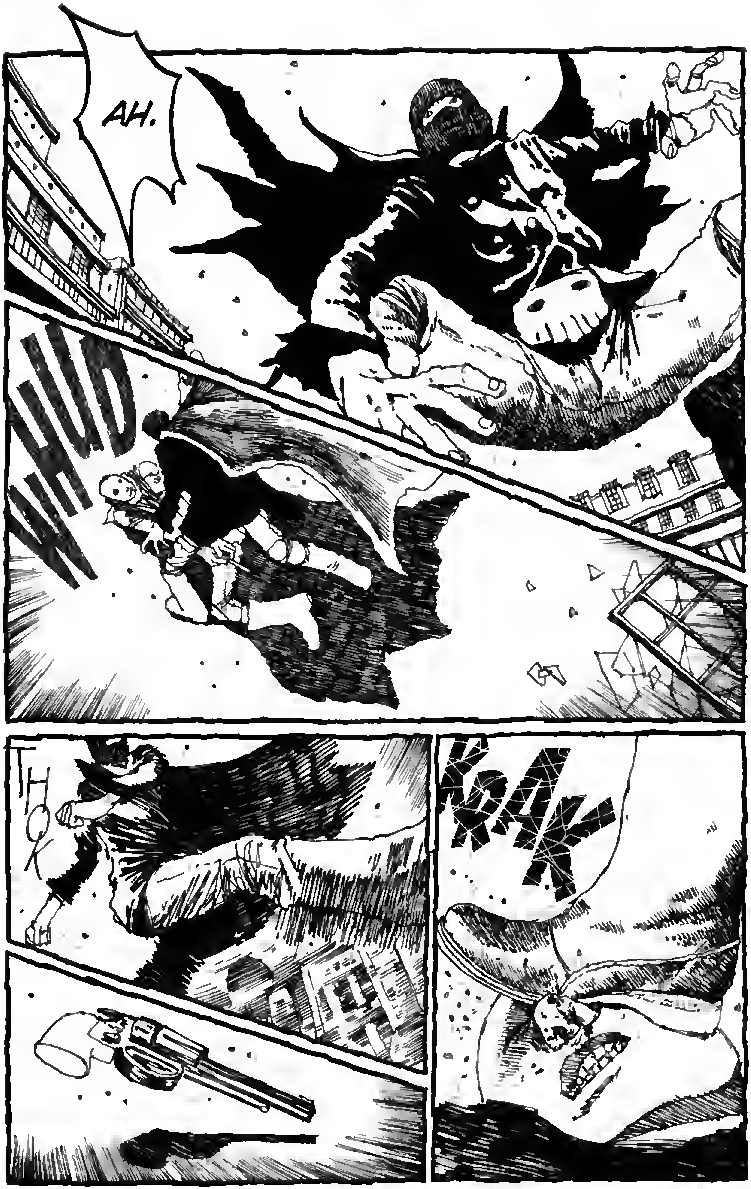
ONE!!
THIS IS NUMBER ONE.
HE'S TRYING TO TELL ME SOME-THING!
WHAT THOUGH?
HA HA HA HA
FWICH
COULD IT BE...
IS HE...
HEY, DOMI-NIQUE!!
... HERE?
FIVE.

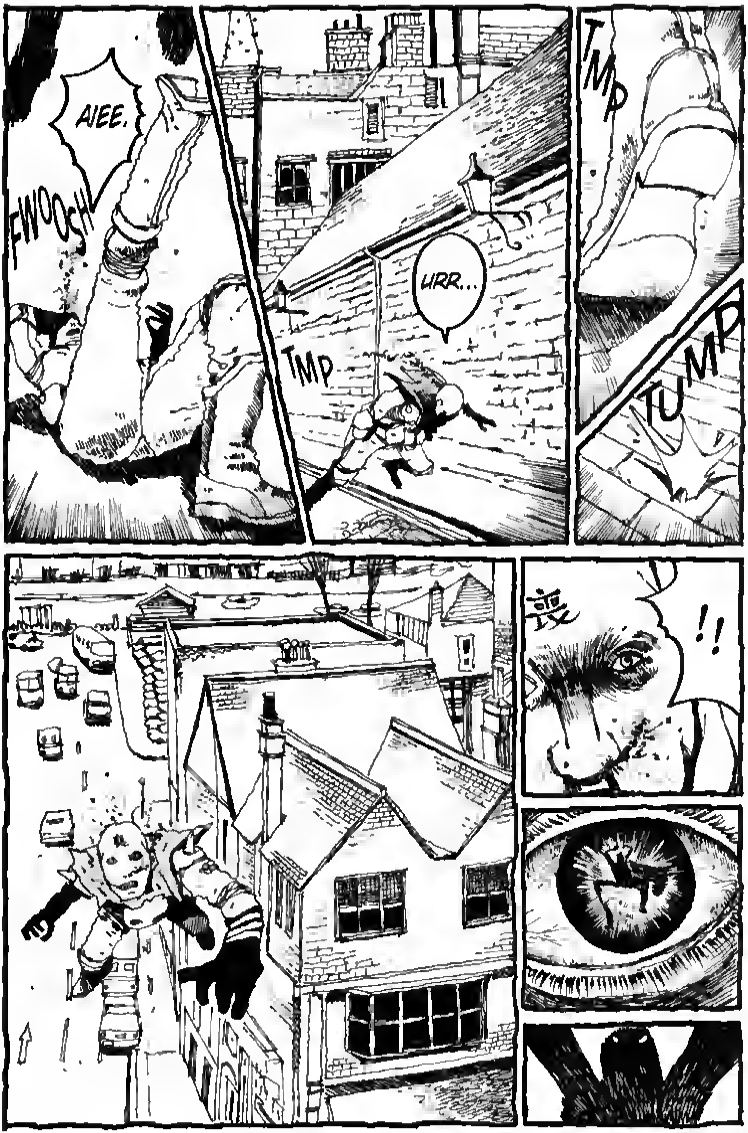
CHUD
VIP
Aieeee!

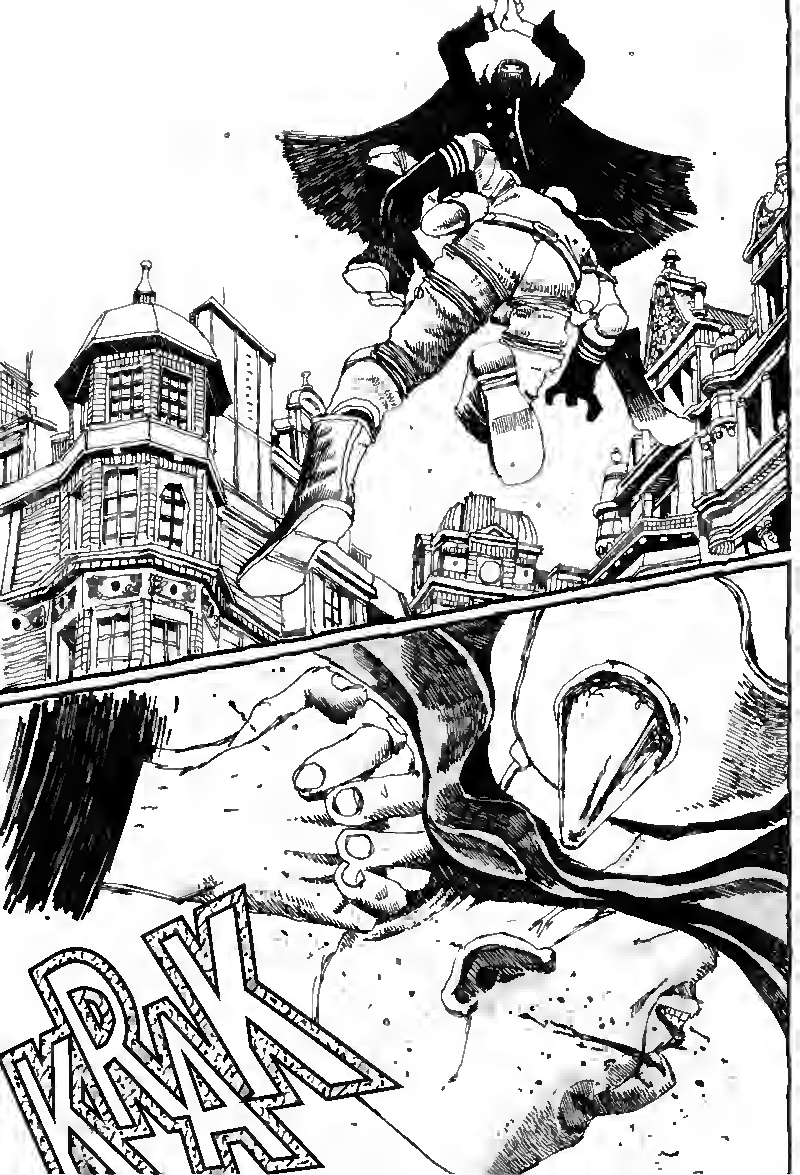
VIP
VIP
VIP
!!!
WHERE IS HE?
AHHHH
WHERE?
DON'T SHOOT!
THE PEO-PLE...
VIP
!
HUH..
WHERE!?

THAT WOMAN.
SHH.
No. 5, former Rainbow Council member of the International Peacekeeping Forces

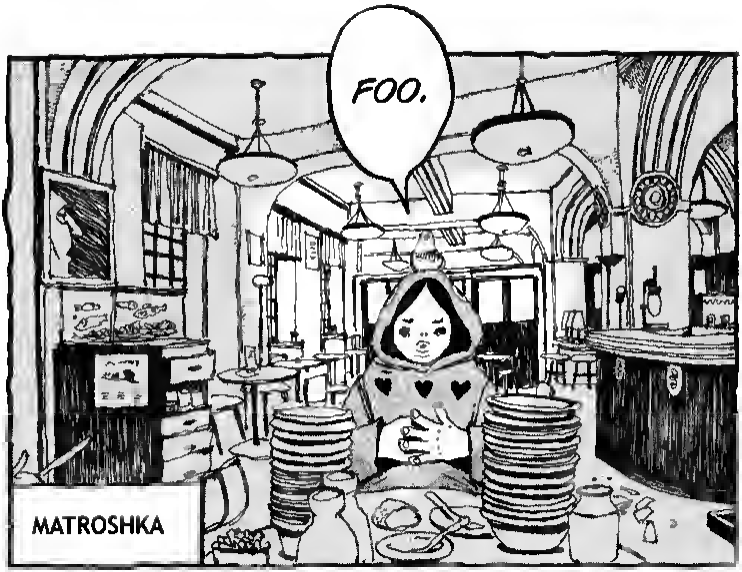

KRSSH
OZ
CHAK
FWICH
ﾈｪ


AH.
WHO
THOK
KRAK


AIEE.
FWOOSH
TMP
URR...
TMP
TUMP
!!


RIK

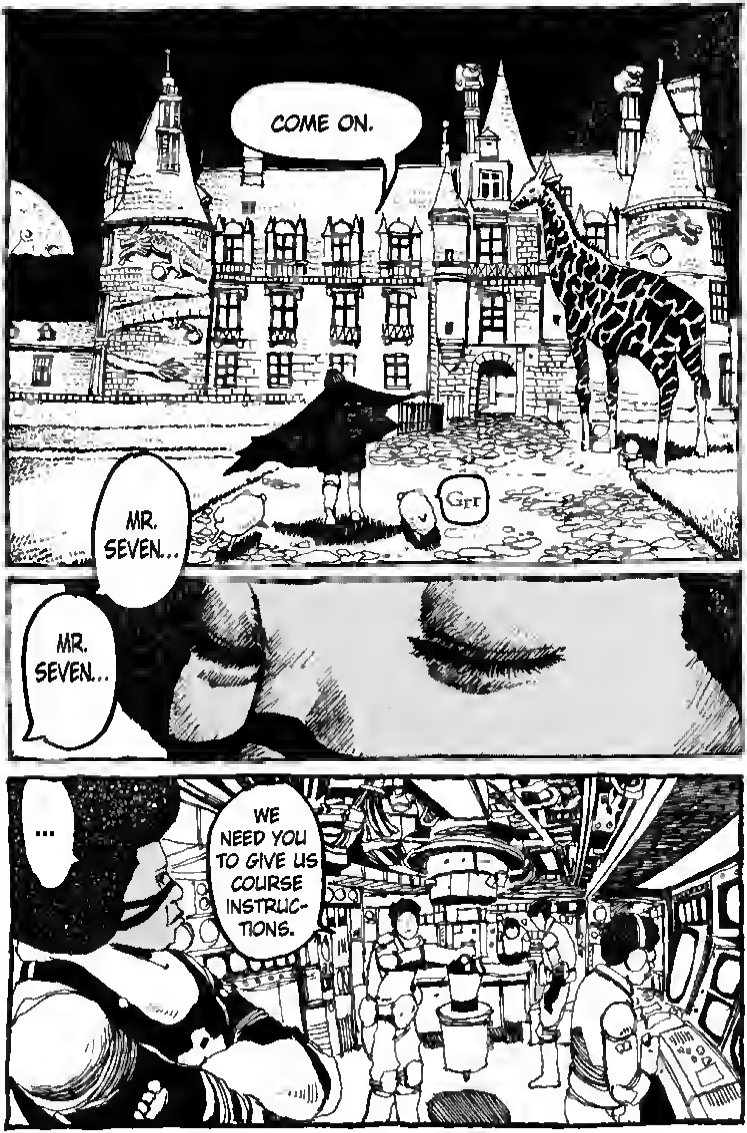
WHUD
HAK!
FWICH
TH
UP
WHUD
CHAK


FOO.
MATROSHKA

THE BETELGEUSE OF THE ORION CONSTELLATION SHINING IN THE WINTER NIGHT SKY SHINES BEAUTIFULLY IN RED.

THAT'S WHAT NUMBER EIGHT WAS LIKE, LITTLE DOMINIQUE.
SHOOT ME!!

WHEN IN FACT YOU WANT TO LIVE.
HAK
...
YOU'RE TOO EASY TO READ...
SO DON'T PLAY THE HERO.
KRAK
FWOOSH


COME ON.
Grr
MR. SEVEN...
MR. SEVEN...
...
WE NEED YOU TO GIVE US COURSE INSTRUC-TIONS.

.....
...
COURSE 2-4-2, 10 KNOTS. DEPTH 100!
WE ARE HEADED AFTER NUMBER FIVE.
Meow

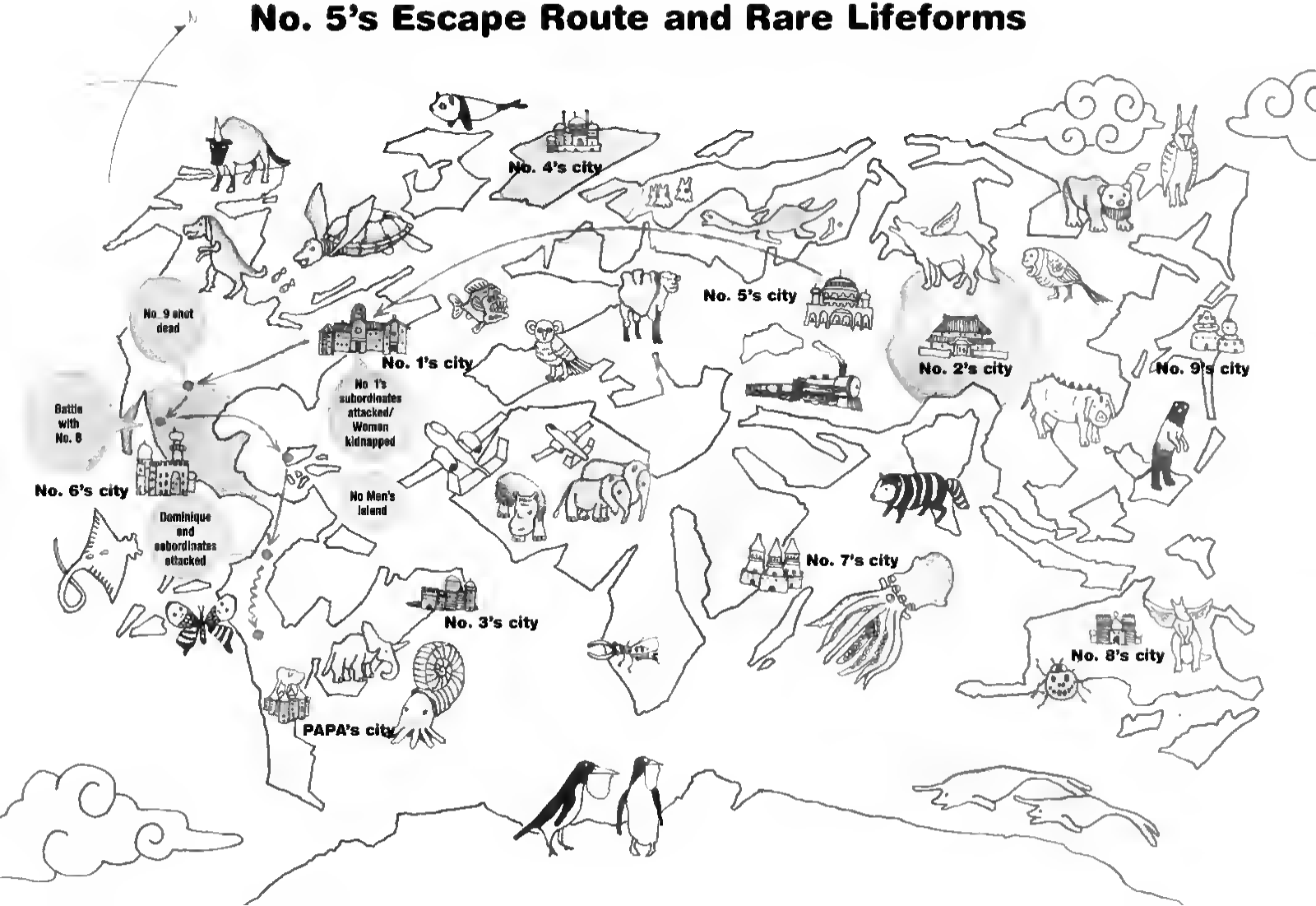
Please do not enter. This is a danger zone.
MAX ON.
police
Do not cross this line.
Move on, move on!
The victims reportedly murdered by Number Five were Number Eights subordinates—
Our earth is falling; Ground is Space
HE'S STILL ALIVE.
DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?
YES.
I'M CERTAIN IT'S COMMANDER DOMINIQUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES' NUMBER EIGHT SQUAD.

all evidence indicating Number Five as the prime suspect
The police are searching for him now.
VWEEEEEEEEEN
There have been no civilian casualties from this affair.
VWEEEE
EEN
THE FOREST.
5

Four months have passed since Number Five's escape.
VWEEEEEEEN
TO BE CONTINUED.
Mumu, male, 4 years old.

No.5 PART ONE•END

No. 5's Escape Route and Rare Lifeforms



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NO. 5—PART 1

STORY & ART BY TAIYO MATSUMOTO

ENGLISH ADAPTATION BY YUJI ONIKI

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ABOUT THE ARTIST

Taiyo Matsumoto was born in 1967 in Tokyo. Beginning with his comic publishing debut in 1986 in the highly regarded manga magazine *Afternoon*, Matsumoto went on to become one of the most notable new manga talents of the 1990s. His work is often characterized as a unique mélange of European, American, and Japanese comics art styles. Citing Katsuhiro Otomo's *Domu* as the work that inspired him to become a comics artist, Matsumoto comments, "American comics are powerful and cool. European comics seem very intellectual. And Japanese comics are very light-hearted. If you could combine the best of all three, you could create some really tremendous work. That's my goal." Several of his works have been translated into French, while he is best known to the Anglophone world for *Black and White*, published by Viz Comics. The following is a list of his complete collected works:

1990 *Zero*, 2 volumes, boxing manga
1991 *Hanao* ("Flower Man"), 3 volumes, domestic drama
1993 *Tekkonkinkurito* (aka *Black and White*), 3 volumes, published in English by Viz Comics
1993 *Aoi haru* ("Blue Spring"), 1 volume, short stories
1995 *100*, 1 volume, short stories
1996 *Ping Pong*, 5 volumes, ping pong manga
1999 *101*, 1 volume, short stories
2000 *Go Go Monster*, 1 volume, a story about a little boy who befriends a monster
2002 *No. 5*, ongoing, this book